

The Time of

the song goes, another turning point, a fork stuck in the road. As yet another chapter of our lives is closed, we must choose another path. It's not a question, but a lesson learned in life. But for what it's worth, it was worth all the while.... Time grabs us by the wrists and directs us where to go; however. we are now at the point where we must choose were to go. The underclassmen move to the next level in a high school where they are imprisoned for yet another year or more. The seniors choose their path with many decisions yet to make. As we all make our choices and go our separate ways, we always know that we have called Rensselaer our home for so many years and the door is always open. Where we are going is not predetermined, it's

something unpredictable, but in the end, it's right. I hope you had the time of your life.





In the top photo, Matt Plets helps the kindergarteners write a story during English class.

In the bottom photo, FFA members (clockwise from girl at bottom) Robin Schneidt, Scott Walker, Jason Robinson, and Ryan Schleman enjoy a little "horsing around" after the FFA chapter banquet.

Your Life



Senior Fun Fest Obstacle team gets ready to reign as Fun Fest champions for the third consecutive year.

Senior Matt Plett, sophomore Mark Alson, and "half here" junior Yo Gutwein show each other a little love after a tennis match.







Seniors Vince Urbano and James Oliver chose from the finest building trades power tools to make their day more enjoyable.

Seniors Cookie Bryant and Marcus Thornton are really using their heads to win the Amazing Relays at Fun Fest.

Student Life

Life in and around Rensselaer Central comes in many forms, such as those pictured on the next four pages. On this page (clockwise from 12:00) are Nevin Mathew reporting from a tennis boys' match, Tiffany Jordan and Karen Damaby performing in The Sound of Music,, Amy Smith, Kim Nagel, Rob Pfaff, and Yo Gutwein participating in the fall Poetry Alive presentation, Paul Dumas setting Mrs. Junglblut straight on French verbs with Beth Hannon and Jessica Taulman studying in the foreground. Sara Cummings and Randi Raff performing water duty at a volleyball game, and the Chamber Singers waiting in front of the Centennial Fountain in Madison, Indiana.

















From top left photo. Jason Robinson paints the FFA sign prior to the annual banquet, Coach Bill Immer en courages eeth Streamer en courages eeth Streamer in a cross courty meet, Mile Koebke does a hand stand, RCHS kei does a hand stand, RCHS kei for sinker kennen stand, RCHS kei for sinker kennen sinker kenne











Student Life

Class of '98 member Lance Spangle sits with his race car before his win at the US 24 Speedway in Logansport, Indiana. The lightning fast senior has been racing since September 1997. In five nights of racing Lance took home five wins and seven second places. The intrepid motorist wants to continue his success in the racing field and someday go on to race and win in the Indianapolis 500.





Kim Nagel waddles around in her duck suit for a parade. She volunteers for the Chamber of Commerce.



Lance Spangle and Joe Dennis are two R.C.H.S students who work at Wal-Mart.

Homecoming Queen Bree Bailey and Mr. Bomber Matt Plett, stand for one of many pictures during their reign. Bree Bailey went to on to state competition for homecoming queens and placed in the top five. She wanted to go into the entertainment industry in the area of art after college. Matt Plett with his outstanding art talent planned to make it well in design.





Brandon Lakin and Brian McIntyre pose for a quick snapshot of them working hard at the local Arni's.

The Student Life pages are dedicated to those students who not only did well in school, but also did well in their hobbies and after school activities. Whether the students were working, playing or striking a pose for the camera, the Mass Communications class tried to capture their talents and with all students at RCHS give them credit for a job well done. Congratulations to the 1997-1998 Student Life winners.

For Brandon Reyes the archery season is well under way. He has a top 15 national rank and with three shoots left in the tour. One being the World Championships, in New York, he says he plans to do well. He says, "I look toward the future perhaps an Olympic team spot, and perhaps in August World Champion." He also added, "Its a great sport and I encourage others to get involved!"







The first hour class members and assorted contributors to the RCHS journalistic efforts are (front row front left): Yo Gutwein, Lindays Northeast, Megan Casey, (second) Danielle Pruest, Jamie Pueka, Nicole Howell, Kelli Bridges, Jennifer Wicks, Jennifer Pizer, Morgan Keiper, and (third, Randis Raff, Ryan Brown, Paul Dumas, Kim Nagel, Beth Hannon, and Briemet Hopkins.

In the picture below a bundle of chums brainstorm some new ideas while contemplating life's complex mysteries.







Lest hour class members are (front row from left): Jenica Fredrick, Hannah Zimmer, Resa Nusubaum, Maris Nagel, Kantel Blady, Barb Lewik, Ambyr Lucas, Sarah Bruwn: (tecond) Bill Otars, Courtery Lucas, Sarah Bruwn: (tecond) Bill Otars, Courtery Lakin, Sorist Miller, Brandon Ryey, Sara Commung; (bhrd) Matt Plan, Adam Zueck, Krain Chank Crasters, Irmy, Swapp, Bundi Chamberlain, Annie Bretzinger, Carmen Marrero, Steph Plant, and Dunit South.

Pictured to the right, class mastermind Mr. Oates hypnotizes his uncultured pupils while demonstrating his superb prowess on the always difficult keyboard.





RENSSELAERIEN & CHAOS

First and last hours in Mr. Oates' class were for Mass Communications. The yearbook staff, fittingly anned Chaos, and the school newspaper staff, which assembled the Renselaerien, worked together in perfect harmony. Chaos spent time getting money for ads, took pictures of everything that went down at RCHS, and put together what you're reading right now. Some of the staff went to a yearbook workshop to learn more current journalism styles and get new ideas on how to improve the already "phat" vearbook.

The Rensselaerien published many more papers and used their new computers and scanner to make our paper the only paper read at RCHS. The staff put two papers out a month, while it covered the fast times at Rensselaer High. The insane, but diligent workers encountered numerous times when the sailing wasn't so smooth. Jessica Fredrick, who really, really, really enjoyed working on the yearbook, said this about the class, "I liked it a lot, no really I did, seriously, I mean it! Shut up eavys!"





Pictured above is the female majority of the class chills out while the males of the class (conveniently out of the picture) sweat, slave, struggle and toil over the gigantic workload forced upon them.

To the left, senior yearbook editor Resa Nussbaum gives hands-on assistance to the always struggling Brandon Reyes. Hey, give him a break, at least he's trying his best.

FFA Fields A Winning Team

The Rensselaer FFA Chapter accomplished numerous achievements this year and had fun doing it These activities included thousands of miles of traveling too. From Pennsylvania to Kentucky on over to Missouri, the FFA had winning in mind and showed it. At the meeting in Kansas City, member Dan Pitstick was hypnotized and later exclaimed, "I couldn't control myself." The real reason for

traveling so much was to allow the Crops, Horse, and Livestock Judging Teams to compete, all of whom won national trips for their high placings.

The FFA also had many other activities on agenda for the year. All members were hard at work during FFA week whether they were serving the teachers a scrumptious pancake and sausage breakfast or showing a variety of primarily baby animals to little kids.

Before the annual Rensselaer FFA Chapter Banquet, members Scott Walker, Stacy Johns, Jason Robinson, Amy Hanewich, Ryan Schleman, Brad Wiltfang, and Nathan Schleman take time out for a friendly picture. During the banquet, awards are handed out, new officers are inducted, and

speakers inspire the FFA Chapter for the following year. The keynote speakers for the 1997-1998 FFA Banquet were Lori Kohlhagen (former RCHS president and current state FFA officer in Trafalgar) and Todd Foster (a basketball coach at St. Joseph's Col-





The freshmen have been initiated into the FFA with great fun. First, they raced on pedal tractors (like Candace Cook to the right) and then dipped their hands in green dye to give themselves the name of Greenhands are first wear FFA members.





The 1997-1998 FFA Chapter: (front row from left) Christa Goodman, Brandy VanBriggle, Candace Cook, Nicole Goodman, Kyle Nagel, Doug Hannon, Brian Hannon, Bryan Rodiosaph, Rady Taulman, Andy Chapman, 10k5 Ame, Nathan Schleman; (second row from left) Lettey Kemendy, Brandon Brown, Andy Blashy, Clear Thompson, Justin Roddiosuph, Kyk Kohbbagen, Amy Hanewich, Barb Lewis, Jason Robinson, Robin Schwick, teph Faris, Luwa Morrical, Brad Wilfang, Jake Nagel; (third row from left) Jennifer Cook, Matt Tychek, Matt Lovely, Kevin Zacher, Nevin Mathew, Ethan Stuff. Tritha Hubn, Jill Wilfsing, Stef Byers, Barb Woodke, Julis Walters, Byan Schleman, Jason Dobton, Mr. Rom Wamiley; and (top row from left) Robert: Inback, Jeremy Williamson, Peter Tychek, Andr Pittick, Nick Tychek, Bard Daniel, Hatab Madhen, Joh Hardin, Mark Moort, Scatt Walker, Ray Yoman, Chris Spurt, Josh Wireman,

and Wade Campbell.



Twelve Rensselaer FFA members attended the 1997 National FFA Convention held in Kansas City, Missouri. The Horse Judging Team consisting of Lauren Koebcke, Andy Chapman, Barb Lewis, and Candace Cook came home being a National Gold Emblem Team. In the picture to the left, the clan is is. Louis visiting the Arch. In the photo below, Brad Wiltfang, Lauren Koebcke, Chad Pinkerman, Barb Lewis, and Andy Chapman smile as they're headed home.









To the left, during FFA Week, Aimee Clouse, Stacy Johns, Jason Robinson, and Robin Schneidt give a magnificent presentation for the Van Rensselaer third graders about how every part of a pizza originates from agriculture. Afterwards, everyone enjoyeda sample of Pizza Hutpizza. Other activities during FFA Week included a tractor drive-in, a faculty breakfast, a petiting oo, and an invitational tile vestock iduding contest held at Rensselaer.

The Livestock Judging Team consisting of Amy Hanewich, Bryan Rodibaugh, Brian Hannon, and Laura Morrical went to great levels this year! From State contest they went to Pennsylvania to take home 2nd place National Team. The team poses in the center photo above with Coach Ron Wamsley, while on tour of Pennsylvania.

In the photo above Ray Yeoman, Brian Hamon, Ethan Stuff, and Andy Pitstick show that they can cook, helping to make scrumptious parackes for all of the teachers that have been so helpful to the FFA for the past year. A lot of patience has to be held for the FFA, because of all of the time that is spent away from the classroom. Students can often be gone a week at a time for important judging contests.

The 1997-98 Student Council is pictured to the right: (back row from left) Bryan McIntyre, Nevin Mathew, Debbie Jennings, Rebekah Hansen, Alisha Harper, Andy Chapman, Kelli Bridges, Luke Tillett, Zack Zimmer; (second row) Brandon Reyes, Kristina Brandenburg, Resa Nussbaum, Marie Nagel, Mrs. Heather Heinig, Kim Rodibaugh, Cookie Bryant, Lacy Zobel, Brienne Hopkins, Beth Hannon; and (fiont row) Jessica Fredrick, Clay Thompson, Brett Kasonovich, Jatin Patel, Alex Kingman, Justin Rodibaugh, Randi Raff, and Alena Lucas.

Kim Rodibaugh helps CDC resident, Raymond, play a game of Bozo Buckets.



Debbie Jennings and Samantha Hopkins labor at tearing newspapers to decorate for the Morp dance.



Student Council

The Student Council had a busy and productive year. They sponsored the Singing Valentines, Computer Dating, Toys for Tots, Riley Buckets, Fun Fest, gave a school tour to the Care Center and CDC residents, and, of course, the ever popular nonformal dance, Morp. And at the head of all of this was a first year sponsor, Mrs. Heather Heinig, and the student body co-presidents Andy Chapman and Lacy Zobel.

For the annual spring Fun Fest, the council added several new events: board games, crab soccer, and Twister. Having the talent show in the gym was another change, which delighted the audience.

"It was a great year and we accomplished a lot this year," said junior Brienne Hopkins.

Another student council member said, "We had great leadership from out co-presidents and our first year student council sponsor."



Mrs Julia Gibbs, leaving her post as teacher and wearing the temporary hat of "Guesstures" judge, explains the rules at Fun

In the photo below, Kellie Bridges serves refreshments to the CDC residents, as Rebekah Hansen helps in the background.









Pictured to the far left, Mrs. Heather Heinig shows the student council members, Jatin Patel, Beth Hannon, and Andy Chapman. how to put up the Morp sign for the candid pictures that night at the dance.

Sigma Di Gamma

Sigma Di Gamma had a very successful year. Through the course of the year the primary function that Sigma Di Gamma sponored was Mardi Gras at the middle school. At Mardi Gras the SDG members (students from the Latin, French, and Spanish classes) taught the 8th graders how to speak each language, Spanish dances, and they let them

taste the food of foreign countries. That also encouraged next year's freshmen to study a foriegn language in high school. The sponsor, Ms. Scamerhorn said, "One of the most enjoyable aspects of Sigma Di Gamma is putting on the Mardi Gras at the middle school. Both Sigma Di Gamma members and the middle school students really have a great time."

In the photo to the right you see some of the 8th graders enjoying the foreign food during Mardi Gras. Food is a direct reflection of the culture of a country. Students got to try food form all of the foreign languages that are taught at RCHS.

In the far right picture, Anne Chapman and Kristy Burman hold the "limbo title" for the 8th graders during Mardi Gras. The limbo was just one of the culture related games that Sigma Di Gamma made available to for the eighth graders to try during the Mardi Gras activity.

Sigma Di Gamma members fro the 1997-1998 whole year are (hade vouw). Denin Pitcher, Kristina Russel, Sean Cawby, Darci Donnely, Amy Shide, Candice Wilkerom. Scond row: Anne Chapman, Krity Burman, Amy Peterson, Desiree Hopkins, Katie Blaisy, Rachn Lanoue First row: Bree Baily, Janel Baily, Rachel Waling, Star Swan, Mr. Scamerhore.











The group pirtuned in the middle of the page 11 the 1997-1998 Art Club-(front row from left) Levi Mattingly, Adam Zacek, Pat Williams, Collin Riley, Allison Alite, Jared Stephen, Charlie Granter, Cathy Ingrami: row two) Kelly Vogt, Barb Lewis, Katie Kingman, Angie Nagel, Bree Ballyn, Laura Brown, Meeghan Smith, Krisii Darnahy, Ryan Sastaley, Balloman, and (rowthree) Cory Malcow, Lance Spangle, Yo Gunwein, Matt Plett, Tom Bretzinger, J.R. Studer, Shelly Bailey, Diana Mateica, and Kim Crynes.

Junior Jessica Fredrick works hard on a painting for display in a RCHS hallway for all of the students to enjoy.



Senior Aaron Knezivic finishes up some final touches on one of his many masterpieces.

ART CLUB

The students, staff and community always appreciates a colorful atmosphere and the RCHS Art Club knows just how to do it. This year's Art Club was responsible for doing bulletin boards here in the school. As for their other projects they made Christmas cards for the Care Center, painted things around the school, posted quotes on the wall, and did work for BTV.

After three years of the existence, the club consisting of thirty talented, imaginative, art students with the love for art expanded their presence at RCHS. Matt Plett, a senior thought that it was nice to be able to share the group's abilities with the students and community.

"We meet once a month and decide upon what's coming up that we can lend a colorful hand around the school," said art club sponsor Kelly Spurgeon. "It would be nice to be able to meet more often but the time just isn't there."

All here at RCHS enjoyed viewing the decorative drawings and paintings that the art club displayed at the school during the 1997-98 school year. This only creates an eagerness for the works in years to come that are a result of the RCHS Art Club.







Director Walt Brown inspects the VICA Roadster frame.
To the right Dwayne Northcust tediously at work.
In the top right photo, Marcus Thorton takes the Roadster for a spin.

The 1997-98 VICA group appears in the top left photos (front rous from thef) Glenn Ingame, Ryan Geren, Chris Spart, Jope Jucaa, Brandon Conley, (middle) Director Wali Brown, Justin Kanney, Marcus Throton, Rya Shibman, Anno Krezeciic, and those two Brandon Lahin, Cart Hale, Chad Ethridge, Josh Wireman, Dwayne Northeuts, Robby Dunbar, Andrein,

VICA

VICA is the organization for those who know and those who want to know about auto mechanics. It helped furnish students with a knowledge on working with the functions of engines and other work in the field of mechanics. During the 1997–98 school year the club fine tuned and put the finishing touches to last year's project, a 1927 Ford Roadster replica; Mr. Oates hoped that the restoration of his 1977 Volkswagon Van would not be far behind. These dedicated students worked diligently on both.

VICA also played host to a representative from Lincoln Technical Institute and his NASCAR sponsored race car. The club received tips on mechanics and suggestions for future education in vocational field.

When asked about the club and its activities, second year member and senior repairman extraordinaire Dwayne Northcutt said, "It was a real learning experience, a lot of fun." Having fun while learning makes the difference in VICA.

TECH CLUB

The Tech Club was created at the beginning of the 1997-98 school year for students who wanted to achieve in the fields of technology. The first year for the Tech Club resulted in an outstanding performance at Indiana State in a statewide competition in problem solving skills, where the group engaged in projects such as designing and manufacturing a CD carrying case. The Tech Club also

competed at Purdue, where competitors had to design, build, and test their basswood miniature bridge for weight capacity.

In only its first year, the club showed RCHS's abilities in technology, manufacturing, and design. Club member Chris Brenneman simply said about the organization, "Teamwork, resources, education and knowledge."







Matt Campbell and Ben Zimmer show off their results from Purdue University's "Bridge Bust '98" held at the Tippecanoe Mall.

In the top left photo, Chris Spur and Brandon Lakin look over the final aspects of VICA's roadster.

Members of the Tech Club: (back row from left) Brian Hannon, Micab Beaver, Matt Kiger, Kyle Nagel, Travis Peterson, Jereny Williamson: (middle row) Charles Gratner, Matt Campbell, Kyle Standish, Brian Cummings, Chad Ethridge, Tim Dewcy; and (front row) Brandon Gilbert and sponsor Mr. Sam Cox.

BPA: Creating Tomorrow's Business Leaders

Business Professionals of America did a variety of things during the 1997-98 school year. The service activities they undertook were typing and organizing the Rensselaer Cross Country Invitational, the March of Dimes Walk-America to help children and infants with disabilities, helping organize the Middle School Tech-Prep awareness program, typing rosters for the football coaches and the girls' basketball coaches. They organized the Turkey Teacher Food Drive to collect food for those in need during the holidays, and a Christmas charity project, where they collected money, toys and food for the

Their fund-raising activities were selling Halloween candy, Valentine's candy, and Santa Grams, where they then they sent children in town a personalized letter from Santa. Their professional activities included inviting guest speakers come in and talk, and participating in contests and a leadership conference. They also were included in the Tech-Prep week for eighth graders, showing the incoming freshmen what they could expect at RCHS. The club's social activities were monthly birthdays, secret Santa, and holiday socials. BPA closed out another year with many memories and new friends.



BPA: (standingfrom left to right) Diana Mateica, Meg Marshall, Angela Scripter, Jessica Spencer, Kristen McBride, Amy Smith, Jennifer Von Tobel, Sarah Wood, Erica Cantu, Shanna Streitmatter, Kathy Barradas-Ingram, Miss Aimee McKuhen, Hannah Babb, Mike McCollum, Jamie Kinnaird; and (sitting from left to right) Wendy Joseph, Tosha Winton, Kristina Jarrette, and Mary Jo Frederick.



The Business Professionals of America had many guest speakers this year. Ryan Schleman listens during class.



Sarah Wood looks on while the guest speaker is talking about businesses.



BADD

Bombers Against Drugs and Drinking was a club organized and developed to promote the education of students regarding drinking and drugs. Students and public awareness of chemical substance abuse was emphasized. The leaders of BADD are Mr. Josh Hauser and Mrs. Marian Horazy. They led the club in activities during the 97-98 school year such as decorating the school for Red Ribbon Week by making posters and hanging them throughout the school. State Trooper Chad Maxwell spoke the the group about the dangers of drinking and drugs. The members of BADD also watched educational movies about drinking and driving, and drugs. Improvements that are being planned for the 1998-99 school year are that the members of the club take it seriously and work together to reach the goal of the organization.



Judge Montfort awards cash prizes to the best Drug Free Poster winners, from left are first place winners Sean Cawby and second place Mats Schenk (third place Meg Marshall was unavailable for the photo.)



Bømbert Agsimt Drinking and Druge; (top rose from left) Tomys Vigent. Came Ockerman, Andrev Vins. Deres Goad, Kary Goad, Kin Cyron, Matt Pizer; (fjurth raw): Srath Coak, Brianne Femwick, Kary Andrena, Lynda Warrheut, Kelf, Kulik, Laura Myers, Kyle Kohlbagen, Randy Rack; (rishr raw): Bonde Gena, Dolla Stane, Jil Austin, Andrea Nusubaum, Ben Zimmer, Dave Rimer, Eihan Sruff, Matt Platt, Jon Davis, Jayer Halligen; (tecnad raw): Baris Lewis, Saren Paut, Angele Stender, Hydrog Kelf, Guldman, Ashiejs Banauch, Tom Mehers, Sarah Brewn, Berndan Riley, Starstan Gustrein, Libby Westen, Andrew Schulerburg, and Gostoorn web. Karthy Back, Adam Bazza, Mercillo Spier, Leg al Brown, Karu Woodston, Frin Kingman, Katte Blatsy, Megan Casey, Meghan Smith, Syan Brown, Paul Dumas, Sarah Balley, Krital Darnalys, and Morgan Kefer.

Samples of the BADD Red Ribbon antidrug week posters are displayed in the top left photo.



Senior Sunshine Society members: (front row from left) Hannah Zimmer, Kristina Brandenburg, Marie Nagel, Sarah Cook, Casej Anderson, Lindery Northeutt, Brienne Fenwick, Resa Nussbaum, Julie Robinson, Jamie Kinnaird; (second row from left) Jessica Brown, Meredith Spieer, Kate Kingman, Erin Kingman, Kara Woodworth, Bree Bailey, Janel Bailey, Katie Blasky, Cookie Byrant, Julie Walter, Am Chapman, Barb Woodke; (third row from left) Kim Rodibaugh, Star Swan, Ericka Sayler, Josslyn Nagel, Holly Shearer, Sarah Wood, Meg Marshall, Deanna Nagel, RaeAnn Lanoue, Jen Pizzer; (fourth row from left) Cathy Ingram-Barradas, Stef Byers, Amanda Tow, Brenda Johnson, Kelly Figley, Jessica Spencer, Lacy Zobel, Angie Nagel, and (fift row from left) Erika Cantu, Amanda Wheeler, Kim Crynes, Athena Reff, Jill Austin, Jennifer VonTobel, Kristen McBride, Amy Smith, Kim Nagel, Teresa Szabo, and Tosha Winton

Junior Sunshine Society members: (front row from left) Kasey Goad, Barb Lewis, Lauren McIntyre, Dede Wiener, Tiffany Stalbaum, Brandy Stone, Shannon Nesius, Tabatha Martin, Ambyr Lucas, Sarah Brown; (second row) Kathy Baker, Hiromi Yoshizaua, Kelly Kulik, Angela Carter, Kelly Vogt, Susan Wakeland, Mary Jo Frederick, Wendi Joseph, Heather Geesa, Allison Allie: (third row) Amanda Gilbert, Sara Putt, Jenny Swope, Laura Meyers, Brandi Moorhouse, Kristin Wickert, Mandy Whitaker, Amanda Barden, Ashley Baunach, Beth Tatlock; (fourth row) Julie Honn, Brooke Geesa, Taunia Vigeant, Michelle Gibbs, Holly Wing, Stacy Johns, Kelly Gudeman, Beth Fish; (fifth row) Beth Houston, Nicole Amsler, Danielle Frazee. Neenah VanBlaircom, Cara Ockermann, Amy Hanewich, Andrea Nussbaum, Lucy Gutwein, Brienne Hopkins; (sixth row) Amy Peterson, Jessica Taulman, Kelly Brantner, Kristina Russell, Andrea Virok, Angela Koebcke, Jessica Hinkle, Jessica Fredrick, Libby Weston, Laura Morrical; and (seventh row) Tiffany Jordan, Stephanie Faris, Candy Bower, Stacie Cross, Dawn Bierman, Beth Hannon, Jodie Lakin, Becky Moore, Heather Hofmeyer.





Sophomore Sunshine Society members: (front row from left) Amand Robins, Kari Jean Mitchell, Amanda St. John, Morgan Keiper, Meeghar Smith, Megan Casey, Darcy Donnelly, Tanya Igoe, Julie Dresher, Brand Stone, Kelli Bridges, Nicole Cannon; (second row) Nicole Serna, Debbie lennings, Rebekah Hansen, Leslie Kennedy, Alisha Harper, Krista Shelhan Jamie Pucka, Danielle Pruett, Nicole Howell, January Marlatt; (third row Jennifer Mikula, Candice Wilkerson, Krista Goodman, Michelle Mattocks lamie Minix, Cassie Norrington, Amber Baggerly, Robin Schneidt, Trish Huhn, Krissy Smith, Missy Gilbert; (fourth row) Jill Wiltfang, Amber Luzadder, Amber Mattocks, Heather Lyons, Nicole Martin, Tristin Snyder Beth Morris, Shannon Daniels, Kim Joseph, Krissi Darnaby, Cristal Cox Amy Shide, April Carr, Stacey Martin; (fifth row) Iodie Lakin, Nicole Nage Sarah Sayler, Annie Wood, Lindsey Jefferies, Kara Tiede, Sarah Bailey, Tara Wood, Brittany Sweeny, Sarah Harden; and (sixth row) Christina Teske Sarah Cummings, Lori Lane, Anna Poppins, Cassie Frazee, Maria Rodriguez Selina Peterson, Ashley Wood, Courtney Tillotta, Rayne Arnett, Krist Wright, and Heather Kidd.

Freshman Sunshine Society members: (front row from left) Chasity Geesa, Samantha Hopkins, Kara Kosta, Kristen Sanders, Stella Zicherl, Abby Thiel, Amanda DeWees, Brandee Cain, Megan Wood, LaDawn Black; (second row) Holly Duley, Karnae Dickson, Tiffany Maxwell, Kristin Hamstra, Christina Jacobson, Kristy Cotner, Angela Owsley, Nicole Goodman, Brandy Van Briggle, Danelle Nagel: (third row) Jennifer Cook, Clarissa Bower, Leesa Murphy, Sara Wakeland, Courtney Lakin, Aanya Warran, Sarah Piatt, Misty DeMoss, Trista Querry, Alicia Standish; (fourth row) Cortny Woodruff, Adrienne Doege, Beth Hicks, Jamie VanHouton, Michelle Kiger, Randi Raff, Laura Brown, Stacy Plett, Betsy Primeau, Casey Hermanson; (fifth row) Relisa Carr, Annie Bretzinger, Carmen Marrero, Samantha Joseph, Amber Barden, Corie Kanney, Kaye Rodibaugh, Abby Canaday, Ashley Streitmatter, Tina Murillo; (sixth row) Emily Feicht, Kristi Zobel, Suzanne LeGrand, Amanda Gutwein, Allison Moore, Shannon Lakin, Kristi Canine, Jessica Mercer, Ashli Nelson; and (seventh row) Brandie Chamberlain, Tara Burman, Amy Lakin, Alina Lucas, Gavra Spence, Lesley Peterson, Amber Platt, and Lindsey Bailey.



Sunshine Society

The Sunshine Society, the largest club at RCHS, involved girls from their freshmen year to their senior year. Along with being the largest active group, it provides many activities for its members and for the entire student body. One new event added in 1997 was a Christmas convocation in the auditorium, where all the students viewed a movie and relaxed before being dismissed for Christmas vacation. Ruthann Bretzinger commented, "I think we had a pretty fun time this year."

One special attraction for the club was the magician

provided at the Mother's Tea. At ideal Lady Night comedian Rebecca Cory was a big hit with mothers and daughters alike. (Cory is the opening comedian for the daytime television talk show Jenny Jones) Daddy Date Night was enjoyable for the dads and girls alike, but the only bad thing was that the girls couldn't stay late because of finals the next day. So, all in all, Sunshine experienced a really good year, and all RCHS students enjoyed the organization's like the ever popular Sunshine Dance and the club's annual candy sales.



The magician at the Mother's Tea provides entertainment for not only the Sunshine members and their mothers, but also for younger sisters.

In the photo to the right, Sunshine girls and their dads fill their plates at Baddy Date Night.

Sunthine Executive board (front row from left) Teresa Scabo, Michelle Kiger, Luura Brown, Corie Kanney, Krittina Russell, Andrea Virok; (second row) Selanie Byers, Ill Audini, Lindaya Northestut, Bree Bailey, Janel Bailey, Katie Blasky, Jen Pizer, and (third row) Mrs. Meta Waling, Maria Badriguez, Krist Canine, Jill Wilfang, Susan Wakeland, and Mrs. Kelle/Spurega.





National Honor Society

The purpose of the National Honor Society is to create enthusiasm for scholarship, render service, promote leadership and to develop character in students. The membership requirements are both honor and responsibility. Students who were selected are to continue to demonstrate the qualities of scholarship, service, leadership and character. Becoming a

member of National Honor Society is reserved for sophomores through seniors.

Although they only meet once a year, the ideals of the club guide the students while they attain life skills. On February 24, 1998, the National Honor Society inducted new members to its distinguished group. A candle light ceremony climaxed of the evening.

New National Honor Society members seniors Joey Kosta, Resa Nussbaum, Andrew Schulenburg, and Shana Streitmatter pass on the Jlame of scholarship, service, and leadership at the annual induction ceremony.

In the photo below, the 1998-99 National Honor Society now members, poe outside the library after the ceremony: (first row) Andrew Schulenburg, Sean Cawby, Alex Kingman, Jaint Patel, Rob Figlif (second row) Kristina Rusell, Ashley Baunach, Sara Putt, Reas Nushaum, Andrea Nushaum, Kathp Baker, Andrea Virok, and (third row) Luke Tillett, Tiffany Jordan, Shomon Neius, Jessica Taulman, Joe Kosta, Stephanie Jordan, Beth Hannon, Brieme Hopkins, Desiree Hopkins, and Amy Peters, and Amy Peters,





The 1997-1998 National Honor Society: (first row from left) Kristy Burman, Julie Wahter, Bree Bailey, Janel Bailey, Ann Chapman, and Katie Blasky: (second) Clins Mattock, Brian McIntyre, Andy Chapman, Kristina Brandenburg, Marie Nagel, Kim Rodsbaugh, Cookse Bryant,



Lacy Zobel; and (third) Kim Nagel, Misty St. John, Devin Pitcher, Justin Wortley, Barb Woodke, Matt Plets, and Brandon Maienbrook.

Student Trainers take a break from their seminar for a crazy group picture.





Athletic Trainers

The Athletic Trainers were in their third year of organization. Ken Hickman instructs the members and gave them an understanding of what athletic training consists of. During the 1997-98 school year the Athletic Trainers visited the University of Indianapolis Athletic Training Department. All student athletic trainers were required to help with one sporting event over the course of the year.

Brandon Maienbrook added, "It was a good experience, because I learned valuable skills for the future."

Matt McAleer, Garret Alson, Tara Wood, and Aimee Clouse learn exciting, new athletic training techniques.



In the center photo, James Oliver gets buff during a Trainers' meeting.

The 1997-98 Athletic Trainers: (back row from left) John Scott, Nowlin Hitchcock, Mark Nagel, Adam Alson, Matt McAleer, Isra Hendon, Bryan Rodibaugh, Tura Wood, Tura Burman, Michelle Kiger: (accond row) Stacy Plett, Libby Weston, Stephanie Jordan, Aimee Clouse, Stacy Johns, Beth Tatlock, Phil Healy, Kyle Johns, Brundon Maienbrook, Kim Nagel, and (first row) Randi Raff, Matt Lanoue, Ben Zimmer, Alex Abel, Justin Roberts, Garret Alson, Jared Courtney, and Matt Kiger.





Academics

Bomber Vision

The BomberVision staff was very productive during the 1997-98 school year, the second season for this wonderful show. Technology was the trump card making Bomber Vision the most watched news show at RCHS. Paul Dumas and Ryan Brown returned to anchor and produce BTV, with Kim Nagel, Megan Casey, and Morgan Keiper.

After purchasing a new VHSC camcorder to aid animation production, Chuck Gratner and Mike Potts created many animated introductions for the show (unfortunately, many did not see the light of day.) Commercials were also an addition to Bomber vision this year, helping other clubs and organizations advertise their products. Livening up the atmosphere was new lighting and new backdrops. Despite a few breakages and losses, all went well.

Special weeks for BomberVision included students from the Mass Communication classes producing shows, for example Mass Comm's own Mike Potts as Elvis Presley in "Elvis Week" and "Freak Week" (unusual school-wide talent) under the production of Ryan and Paul with Lance Spangle shoving five Twinkies into his mouth and runner-up Tommy "Butter" Bretzinger's displaying freakish feet.

The beauty of Bombervision is that they didn't get into as much trouble as they thought they would. Only once they suffered from the blues.

The 1997-1998 BVT crew: (back row from left) Kim Nagel, Megan Casey, Morgan Keiper, Chuck Gratner, Marie Nagel, and Scott Miller; and (front row) Kara Woodworth, Lindsay Northcutt, Ryan Brown, and Paul Dumas.





that day. Kim Nagel focuses the camera, as Paul Dumas, Megan Casey, and Morgan Keiper practice



the announcements



In the photo to the left, senior Angie Scripter helps one of the children reach a highhidden Easter egg.

In the very bottom picture, the Easter bunny showed up at the elementary Easter egg hunt, and later posed with some of the Fellowship of Christian Student members.

The Fellowship of Christian Students members: (top row from left) Alan James, Amanda Stone, Nick Black, and Joth Taylor; (middle row) Relisa Carr, Kyle Kolhagen, Luke Tillett, Ed Schenk; and (front row) Danielle Pruett, Kim Edwards, Angie Scripter, and Tillany Jordan.





Fellowship of Christian Students

The Fellowship of Christian Students, also known as simply FCS, was fed by Mr. Cox during the 1997-98 school year. They did a lot of not-so-noticable but important things in their attempt to be a helpful club on the community. For Thanksgiving they gave out food to those who had very little, while also participating in a cost drive to keep the needy warm for the winter. For Christmas, they gave out food baskets to

others in the community.

The big FCS event for the year was the Easter egg hunt for children at Monnett Elementary. All the children, along with the high schoolers had a great times finding Easter eggs that the FCS members hid in the gym. Over all, the FCS made the year more enjoyable for many people while they ended up having a good time too.

Tom Bretzinger works hard in the garage with Brad Fleming.

The morning building trades: (first row from left) Bryan McIntyre, Matt Mullens, Matt Hoyes, James Oliver, Cole Schlultz; (second row) Cris Brenneman, Clint Mattocks, Maynard Smith, Josh Kemp, Chad Pinkerman; and (third row) Jodi Daniels.











Bryan McIntyre works on the ceiling of the trades house.



In the photo to the right, Matt Hoyes installs electrical wiring in the building trades house



Building Trades

During the 1997 - 1998 school year the Building Trades students were busy finishing a duplex on Sparling Road. The vocational class worked hard every day during two class periods, hoping to finish the domicile with enough time to start a new house in the spring and get a jump on construction for the next school year. This will be the first time the classes have ever started a second house during the same school year.

The students learned a variety of skills from carpentry to plumbing as they worked hard to complete the second half of the home, which was begun the previous school year.

Both males and females worked on the house, and Dave Goodman said, "It's not unusual to have girls in the class," adding that he was happy that girls as well as guys were experiencing the practical work experience of building a residence.





The afternoon building trades class hangs around to be photographed. (From Tom Bretzinger on the left; Brad Fleming, Mark Moore, Phil Healey, Isra Hendon, Nathan Schleman, to Dwayne Northcutt in the middle.)

Dave Goodman helps Cole Schlultz and Matt Mullens saw correctly.

S-P-E-L-L Bowl

The 1997 Spell Bowl team experienced a very successful year. Some of their accomplishments were placing second in the Northwest Hoosier Academic Conference, taking first in the Renselaer Central Spell Bowl Invitational, and placing first at the IACE Area Meet as a Class 3 School at North Judson. In addition, the team was named 1997 Area Overall Champion, they were a 1997 State Qualifier in Class 3, and

finished sixth in State.

Several students qualified for state competition and the individual accomplishments at state included Janel Bailey as a perfect speller, and Kristina Russell, Beth Tatlock, Ed Schenk and Jamie Pucka as students missing only one word. The entire team finished off a well-rounded year to the excitement of their coaches, Mrs. Heather Heinig and Mrs. Deb Price.

The 1997-98 Spell Boul Team: (front row from Ird) Desi Hopkins, Janel Bailey, Devin Pitcher, Robb Pfaff, Mahendra Gaud; (second row) Coach Deb Price, Mitah Bower, Kristina Russell, Jen Tizer, Brandale Chaimbedain, Jamie Pucka, and (third row) Jestica Taulman, Beth Tatlock, Amy Peteron, Ed Scheth, and Coach Heather Heinig.





Spell Bowl team members Jessica Taulman, Desi Hopkins, and Mahendra Gaud spell out the success of their season.

Pictured to the right, Coach Heather Heinig and speller Kristina Russell practice the skills they'll need to win.





Academic Super Bowl Team

The 1997-98 Academic Super Bowl Team was made up of individuals who enjoyed the basic school subjects like English, math, social studies, science, and the fine arts. The team's coach, Mrs. Heather Heinig, assisted this team before and enjoys their thirst for knowledge.

The team competed in a number of competitions state finals in mind. They put in many hours of work with reading novels, researching, and just studying. They worked together as a team and depended on everyone to do his or her part. This also improved their contributions to the overall effort.

Bettering their own study skills, which will help them in years to come whether it's finishing high school or getting ready for college, this team helps them prepare for the future. They had a wonderful year, and they enjoy the competition trips.

The 1998 Academic Super Bowl team on their way to a meet: (top left corner from left) Kristina Russell, Sara Wakeland, Dustin Smith, Mark Alson, Emily Feight, Lacy Zobel, Ed Schenk, Adam Alson, Devin Pitcher, lanel Bailey.



Academic team members Kristina Russell and Devin Pitcher study hard for an upcoming meet.

To the left, Coaches Heinig and Price prepair to lead the Academic Superbowl Team to a great year by going through books for questions to ensure success.

Science Superstars

Science Olympiad is a team competition which consists of 15 people covering 24 events that encouraged problem solving, critical thinking, communication, technology and knowledge. All events were centered around topics in science as they applied to other subject areas. The 1997 team placed second in the small schools division and fifth place overall in the area. The top four teams in the area advanced to state.

To the right, freshman Eleanor Black guides her teammate Suzanne LeGrand to a successful season for the Science Olympiad team by pointing out their strategy for the next big win.



The 1997-98 Science Olympiad members: (top row from left) Coach Heather Heinig, Andrea Virok, Jill Wiltfang, Cookie Bryant, Jennifer Pizer, Devon Plicher, and LaDawn Black: and (bottom row) DustinSmith, Kristina Russell, Ed Schenk, Micah Beaver, Matt Schenk, and Kevin Rabar.







Junior Kristina Russell concentrates hard while measuring volatile chemicals in anticipation of a successful showing at the Science Olympiad. Could a state winner be right around the corner?

To the left, seniors Micah Beaver and Ed Schenk work vigorously to make their project the best scientific endeavor since Ben Franklin stood in the rain and flew a kite. Hard work helps make science olympiad the best at R.C.H.S.

Little Librarians

The Media Assistants Club did a number of things around the library. The club, lead by Mrs. Dena George, met during homeroom periods. During this time they discussed up and coming things in journalism and new software. The club members spent their study halls critiquing new materials, suggesting new books and running the currculation desk. In addition to those tasks they made photocopies for students, re-shelved magazines and books, checked the book sections for

misplaced books, spruced up the library decorum so that the media center is a warm and friendly place, and sometimes did odd jobs for other teachers. Among their challenges were keeping track of audiovisual equipment and making sure that the recorders and players return safely to their places. In some cases, they were trained on new projectors, such the 3-D overheads, which helped teachers use the products more quickly. This group of selfless helpers was always busy.



luntor Stephanse Plant shows off those office skills by organizing magazines in the library



MAPPY HOLDAYS FROM



Nicole Howell utilizes her library privileges by getting help from a former media assistant.

The 1997-98 media assistants: (photo at the top of the page from left to right) Mrs.

Dena George, Brad Furst, Melissa Morris, Nolan Hitchcock, Kelly Brantner, and

Stephanie Plant.

Helping Hands

The Community Service Club is a group of people who like to volunteer for their community. The 1997-98 club was led by Mr. James Earnest. Throughout the year the Community Service Club helped with the Boys and Girls Clubs, set up showcases at the public library, purchased meals for needy families around Thanksgiving time, and hung posters for the American Red Cross Blood Drives. The Community Service Club also

helped with the Van Elementary "Fun Days" by playing games with the students.

Jen Pizer, an involved member of the Community Service Club, reflected, "The club is still fairly new; this year we had more enthusiastic members join and everyone had a fun time helping others out." The club hopes to grow and get more people active with helping the community in a variety of ways.





The Community Service Club is in the top photo: (back rone from left) Nick Black, riffany Jordan, Ed Schenk, Josh Taylor, Alan James, Amy Peterson; (second row) Jenica Taulman, Jen Pizer, Brenda Johnson, Jahna Mardatt, Casy Hermanson, Shannon Lakin; and (bottom row) Nicole Howell, Emily Feicht, Kristi Zobel, and Kelly Figley.

In the photo directly above Community Service members (Amy Peterson, Tiffany Jordan, Casey Hermanson, Shannon Lakin, Emily Feicht, Kritti Zobel, Jash Taylor, Alan James, Ed Schenk, Nick Black, Jen Pizer, and Kelly Figley) help pick up sticks near the auditorium.



Community Service Club members Jahna Marlatt and Nicole Howelll help set up showcase at the library.



To the left, this year's science club poses in the library for their group picture: (from left to right) Mrs. Heather Heinig, Ryan Stanley, Levi Mattingly, Kristina Russell, and Jen Pizer.

In the lower left photo, Wes Mattocks, Rudy Taulman, Ryan Stanley, Sarah Cummings, and Meeghan Smith enjoy a successful Science Fair display.

In the photo below, physics students Amy Peterson and Rob Pfaff oversee their roller coaster project.





$S_3c_6i_2e_8n_5c_4e_3C_4l_2u_4b_3$

The science club is a group for people with many different scientific interests. Anyone can join; the only requirement is a love for what goes on in the science world. During the 1997-98 school year, the group consisted of many more students than the five who are pictured above.

Mrs. Heather Heinig headed the club and saw the science club expand, while hoping that it will continue to grow in popularity. This group prepared projects for the school's annual science fair, which was held on April 2. Student projects were presented and the Science Fair came off as a big success. At the fair scientific projects were presented from roller coasters demonstrating principles of physics to the making of rubber bands. The Science Fair's success can be attributed to the hard work of this special science club.

Decathalon Team

The Academic Decathlon team is a competition involving ten events: speech, essay, interview, language, literature, art, music, social studies, science, math, and economics. A team of nine students competed in all ten events. The team must have three students with an "A" average, three with a "B" average, and three with a "C" average or below. They participated in two meets, both at Kankakee Valley High School. This was the first year Rensselaer has had a team and to their surprise, managed to beat several teams that have been participating in this for several years. Dustin Smith, a freshman at R.C.H.S., told about his experience on the team, "Having it be my first year I didn't really know what I was supposed to expect, and I didn't know how the club worked. Hearned a lot and had a good time doing ic."

The 1998 Decathlon Team includes: (back row top left) Taunia Vigeant. Susan Wakeland, Nicole Howell, Danielle Pruett, Jill Wiltfang (Bottom row left) Dustin Smith, Kristina Russell, Janel Bailey, Nick Black, Ed Shank, Mrs. Price.





Sponsor, Heather Heinig takes five with Kristina Russell, a junior, to guide her in her search of more information on her Decathlon topic.





Freshman, Dustin Smith looks up some important information for the Decathlon Team practice. The Decathlon Team spend many hours in researching their topics for the meets.

In the photo at the top of the page, Nicole Howell and Jill Wiltfang are busy studying in the library to keep up their decathlon skills.

Pioneerz

Pioneerz were made up of forty-five students from area schools, in which fifteen were from R.C.H.S. The Pioneerz have several goals for their group. They strived to open their minds and hearts to benefit their school, community, and themselves. They brought peace to peoples lives, and understanding to ingorance. The Pioneerz were always trying to make a better world by starting right in their own communities. The teachers, parents, judges, lawvers, police officers, social workers,

and community members all supported them in their community spirit.

The Pioneerz went on two trips last year, and they had a blast. During the 1998 school year, the Pioneerz went to Camp Buffalo for a retreat. The group spent the weekend with their leaders learning about themselves and others. They were sponsored at RCHS by: Ms. Amiee McKuhen, Mr. Sam Cox, Dr. Tom Ryan, and Ms. Julia Gibbs.







The 1997-1998 Pioneerz members are (backe vow from left to right): Jim He, Vince Urbano, Clint Matsocks, Mast Plets; (middle row), Tim Yenna, Kim Rodibaugh, Sarah Wood, Devin Pitcher; (bottom row), Resa Nustbaum, Marie Nagel, and Holly Shearer.

The RCHS seniors say good-bye with their friends from area schools at their last Pioneers' retreat. They are Kim Rodibaugh (left), Matt Plett (behind Kim), Eric Nowlin (next to Kim), Devin Picher (back middle), and Holly Shearer (next to Devin).

The Pioneerz take time out to pose, with their new friend in brown. This close knit group spent the weekend together at Camp Buffallo taking about their life experiences, future plans, and how to live healthy lives.

The Bomber Brigade

The Rensselaer Central High School marching band traveled almost every Saturday during the fall semester to many different schools to perform their best in their brand new uniforms. Regardless of the band's performance on any given day, their spirits were high and they would always strive to make every appearance better than the previous one.

The band made it to the regionals with an impressive score of 60.1 out of the top twenty bands that performed. Then the Bomber Brigade traveled to Jacksonville, Florida to participate in the Gator Bowl half time show on New Year's Day 1998 for a memory provoking experience. They also competed in a marching band contest and placed third out of seven other bands in their division.

At the annual ISSMA district contest, the band garnished an impressive first place in performance and sight reading. The school year was capped with the annual spring concert, which doubled as the pre-contest tryout.

In the photo below, drum Major Lacy Zobel directs the Bomber Brigade at a home game performance.





The 1907-50 Bender Stragate (Strate van Sons leit) Stele Falls and Lary Chells Learner (Samuel America Merica Traven Cherica, New York State Mery St. John John Statistican, Witer Omerfeich, Amanda St. John, Johns Willerder, Kerner Darmain, Darwell Nagel, Killy Omerfeich, Amanda St. John, Johnson Wireley, Kerre Darmain, Darwell Nagel, Killy Markell, Darwell Persen, Navy Kollent, Angela Garrer, Smill Leitel, Krimer Wilschell, Markell Darmelle Prome, Territor Martin, Cherry State, America State, Darre Domerich, Derector Fan Landson, Guarde van Schwell, Fallow, Triffere Jordan, America Martin, Charles Standard, Lann Strate, Chill Schwell, Mallan Statistica, Darre Domerich, Derector Fan Landson, Guarde van Albert Jahnson, Territor Jacks, Andree Plant, Karry Jorn Mittelell, Carel Hermanson, Paul Fallower, Andrew Amanda Time Hille voor Merkell, Landson, Martin, Californi, Statistica, Carel Hermanson, Paul Fallower, Andrew America, Malla Johnson, La Schwell, Nicola Howell, Methad Galler, Brande Commercian, Deveror Hopeton, State, Adolf Paul, Martin, Galler, Barryal Rev. Mercen, Martin, Galler, Martin, Carel Harvell, Methad Garler, Barryal Company, America Charles, Martin, Landson, Nagel, Landson, Nagel, America Charles, Martin, Landson, Martin, Landson, Nagel, America America, Martin, Carel Michael, Jane Guerre, Sancy Martin, Lopela Martin, Landson, Martin, Landson, Martin, Landson, Martin, Landson, Martin, Landson, Martin, Landson, Carel Martin, Landson, Martin, Landson, Carel Martin, Landson, Martin,



Karen Darnah, and Denelle Nagel performing at a home footbass game

he 1997-98 Jazz band: (sellining) Mike Osterfeld: (front row from left) Hiromi Yadanaua, wasta Mireer, Jeel Enithy, Amber Luzader, Amy Peterson, Robert Piff; (second vow) Ed Schenk, Man James. In Ourself: North Euch Consulted Parest, Loue Consules; (fisher dows) John Tsysh, Nichol (lawell, Brandi Chamberlain, Deitre Hopkins, Kristy Castine, Casey Hermanson, Mr. Tom Zaudrum; and Bokk vow) Melios Gilbert, and Bok hir Mar.





Director Tom Landrum directs the pep band at a home basketball game.

The color guard performs at a home football game..





Clarinetest Tiffany Jordan, and saxaphone players Hiromi Yoshizaua and Josslyn Nagel bundle up for an early morning practice on the front lawn of the school.

To the right, the Concert Choir works hard in their practice for their uncoming concerts.

The Concert Choir. (up row from left) Amanda St. John, Jamie Pucka, Krista Shelhart, Jeremy Eisele, Rebekah Hansen, Mr. Doug McKinley; (second row) Jill Austin, Jeremy Culbreth, Mike Gross, Derek Goad, April Carr, Candice Wilkerson, Mandy Whitaker; (third row) Aayna Warran, Carrie Day, Mike Alson, Cassis Norrington, Amanda Stone, Kristen Putt, Michelle Filson; and (fourth row) Missy Morris, Dana Garretto, Shelly Bailey, Amanda Robbins, Wesley Martin, Kristy Wright, Jamie Kinnaird, and Becca Hamer.









The Treble Choir: (top row from left) Elizabeth Vanderkleed, Kristie Downs, Misty Debloss, Amber Barlem, Kristy Cotter, Réliss Carr, Amanda Gutwein, Mr. Doug McKinley; (second row) Mercedes Clark, Sara Wakeland, Rutham Bretzinger, Carmen Marrero, Suzanne LoGrand, Garora Spence, Becca Hamer, Karnae Dickson; (third row) Samantha Hopkins, Amanda DeWees, Brandie Chamberlain, Lindsey Bailey, Jessica Mercer, Jamie VanHouten, Beth Hicks, Kristy Wright, Jamie Kinnarid, and (fourth row) Betsy Primeau, Stella Zicherl, Kristen Stath, Brandee Cain, Chasity Gessa, Jenny Swope, Kristen Sanders, and Ulie Robinson.

To the right, freshman Dustin Smith dances and sings to a song called "ABC."

RCHS Choirs

Rensselaer Central choirs had an exciting 1997-98 school year. The first appearance was on September 5, 1997, when the Chamber Singers performed for the public on the stage in front of the court house at the annual Little Cousin Jasper Festival. All choirs took part in the fall concert in the High School Auditorium, on October 28, 1997, where they delighted the audience with a variety of music. The Chamber

Singers ended the show with dance steps to their singing. Another choir appearance was the annual Christmas Concert at the St. Joe chapel.

Many choir students took part in the district sool and ensemble contest at South Newton. Rensselaer entered sixteen ensembles and seven solos, which went to the state contest in Indianapolis. The results were nine ensembles and six soloists receiving a superior rating.





The Chamber Singers: (top row from left) Amanda Tow, Chris Spurr, Josh Taylor, Kim Nagel, Mr. Doug McKinley. IR Studer, Mike Osterfeld. Dennis Luchene: (second row) Amanda St. John. Charlie Todd, Brandon Lakin, Adam Brantner, Kristina Teske, Jennifer Wicks, Amber Luzadder; (third row) Heather Hofmeyer, Brienne Hopkins, Dustin Smith, Ieremy Williamson, Amy Peterson. Tiffany Jordan, Desiree Hopkins, Beth Houston; (fourth row) Barb Woodke, Becca Hamer, Debbie Jennings, Jeremy Eisele, Rebekah Hansen, Janel Bailey, Julie Walter, Lacy Zobel, Josslyn Nagel, Ericka Sayler: and (fifth row) Angie Scripter, Kelly Brantner, Kelly Vogt, Dannielle Pruett, Brittany Sweeney, Megan Casey, Cookie Bryant, Ann Chapman, and Brooke Gessa.

The Chamber Singers share a tender moment while singing "For You I Will."

BEN ZIMMER EARNS 12 VARSITY LETTERS

Benjamin Mark Zimmer earned twelve varsity letters throughout his high school career. He was a four year letter winner each in cross country, swimming, and track. The God given talent he exhibited advanced him to the state meet in swimming, the semi-state in cross country all four years, and to the track regionals three times and the state finals his senior year..

CONGRATULATIONS FROM THE CLASS OF '98!!



In the above picture, Ben and his father celebrate after Ben's fabulous performance at his senior year swimming conference

Pictured above right is Ben storming out of the gate in the cross country sectionals.

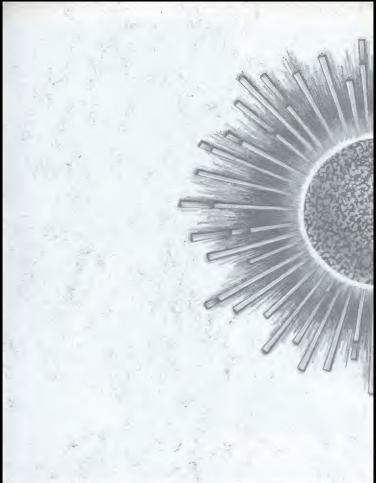
In the photo to the right is Ben in his cross country uniform.

To the far right, Ben is running in a track meet.









Sports

Dede Weiner makes an excellent chip from the fairway.

Jana Marlatt makes her way to the top with a

stupendous drive.













The girk golf toms (first rous from left) Kang Anderson, Reas Naudsum, Dedw Wiener, Star Sum, (second rous) Andrea Nucheum, Dedw Wiener, Star Sum, (second rous) Andrea Nucheum, Meeghan Smith, Kriis Demoth Shannon Danlel, Megan Caey, Lindery leffries, Samanuh Hopkins, Alicia Samdish, Kriisen Sanders; and third vow Mr. Rioß Stefantoh, Jahna Marlan, Holly Wing, Bod Hannon, Tritian System, Abil Nelson, Kriii Carsine, Michelle Manneck, and Berry Primotus.



Star Swan makes a great chip from the rough.

Seniors: A Hole In One

Girls chip their way to fame

The 1997 girls' golf team started the season out on a positive note and continued their success throughout the rest of the season, ending with a record of eleven wins and only one loss. The team's average for nine hole matches was 200.

Senior Star Swan had an excellent year. She starred as the team's number one player. Star averaged 49.8 for nine holes. Following Swan was senior Resa Nussbaum with a playing average of 49.9. Resa helped the team out this season by giving her best each and every meet. Kasey Anderson, the number three person on the team, had a stupendous year with a 50.5 average for nine holes.

Other members of the varsity squad were Dede Wiener, Meeghan Smith, and sometimes Jahna Marlatt. Dede Wiener had an average of 51.6 and played fourth on the team. Meeghan had an average score of 58.1 and Jahna Marlatt had an average score of 58.8. Marlatt and Smith battled for the fifth spot on the varsity team the entire season.

Some younger members of the girls' golf team stood out because of their effort on the j.v. squad. Alicia Standish, Megan Casev, and Andrea Nussbaum gave one hundred percent this season and hopes to improve their playing skills and possibly show their stuff next year on the varsity squad. Andrea Nussbaum did a fantastic iob playing with an average score of 60.3. This year Andrea showed great potential to be a great varsity team player next season. Megan Casev also did very well playing an average of 59.1. Alicia Standish played an awesome season, considering that she was only a freshman. Her average score was 57 for nine holes. These girls will be strong assets to the lady Bombers next season with more playing time under their belts.

Alex Abel's intensity shows as he eagerly awaits the

Senior Matt Plett gets ready to slam another one down the throat of his opponent.





Boys' Tennis Serves Up A Great Season

Seniors have strong feelings about the finish.

The boys tennis team experienced success and publicity in 1997 under the leadership of Darren Haas, a previous St. Joe player. Starting three years ago, the team closed 1997 with a record of 10-6, with the result that the Rensselaer fans and the newspaper took more notice.

Junior Yo Gutwein felt that the season, overall, was a success, despite a disappointing loss against Merrillville in the sectional finals. "Before Coach Haas arrived, we had a weak tennis program with little experience and no coach. When Coach arrived he raised our expectations and brought out our talent. He turned us around and we went into every match expecting to win. In comparison to last year, the season was definitely a success, but we expected to win conference and go further in the post-season."

The team included two strong seniors, Matt Plett and Joel Leichty. Joel said, "We had a lot of fun with Coach Haas, and I think we had a really good year as a team. I think that everyone improved and buckled down throughout the year."

Matt's feelings were similar to Joel's as he had this to say. "I had a lot of fun and everybody improved a lot since last year. Even during the season we improved. We finished the season at 10-6, and it was our first ever winning season." Matt also commented that he was happy to have the conference champ, Yo Gutwein, on the team.

At the team banquet Coach Haas recognized everyone's hard work and dedication, but three individual players that stood out in his mind were Adam Alson, Varsity Rookie of the Year Award; Sean Cawby, Most Improved; and Vo Gutwein, MVP.





Yo Gutwein uses his supreme footwork skills to return an on-coming ball.





Senior Joel Leichty winds up, hoping for an ace.

The 1997 RCHS boys tennis team: (top row from left) Matt Plett, Adam Alson, Brian Hannon, Coach Darron Hats; (middle two) Joel Leichty, Wes Mattocks, Kevin Gillepie, Andy Blasky, Jarod Steffen; and (bostom row) Mark Alson, Jatin Patel, Alex Abel, Sean Cawby, and Chris Wilcox.



Variiy Squad. Coach Derek Klute, Aimee Clouse, Tara Wood, Amy Hanewich, Hannah Zimmen, Shannon Nesius, Coach Linda Kaufman, Asistant Coach Chassity Yeoman, Jesica Fredrick, Kara Tiede, Erin Kosta, Kristy Burman, Allison Allic, Kristina Brandenburg, Sara Putt, and Manager Misy Gilbert.

Junior Varsity Squadt. Coach Linda Kaufman, Lori Lane, Michelle Kiger, Tara Wood, Sara Cummings, Stacie Plett, Michelle Mattocke, Assistant Coach Chassity Yeoman, Manager Misty Gilbert, Kara Tiede, Tara Burman, Sarah Bailey, Erin Kosta, and Jody Graf.









Randi Raff sets up for a kill, as Tara Wood and Erin Kosta ready themselves for action.

Freshman Squad: Corrie Kanney, Ashley Streitmatter, Randi Raff, Trista Querry, Jamie Van Houten, Coach Chasity Yeoman, Manager Missy Gilbert, Amanda DeWees, Tara Burman, Kaye Rodibaugh, and Abby Canaday.

Intent on winning, the varsity squad huddles, while deciding on a strategy for their next play.





Allison Allie bumps the ball as teammates Shannon Nesius and Kristy Burman await their turns.

Tara Burman serves the ball as Sarah Bailey positions herself for the



Smashing Season for Netters

Overall Record Improves

The three Lady Bomber Volleyball squads had an overall good season. According to the coaches, the girls had a fun and rewarding year.

The frosh squad ended their season with a 4-5 record. According to Coach Yeoman, "The girls gave great effort this season. And they worked as a team all season." Members of the freshman squad taking home awards were Jamie Van Houten for serving, Stacy Plett for the passing, Amanda DeWees for setting, Corie Kanney for serving, Trista Querry for the Most Improved, Kaye Rodibaugh for hustle and the mental attitude, and the coach's award went to Abby Canaday. Looks like the girls got off to a good start in their high school vollevball careers.

The j.v. squad ended their season with a 19-7 record. "Every athlete on this team worked every night, in practice and in games to make this season a success. Always a great team effort," said Coach Kaufman. The j.v. squad

were tourney champs at the Twin Lakes Invita-

tioM-mbers of Coach Kaufman's squad receiving awards were Jody Graf for serving, Michelle Kiger for passing, Tara Wood for hitting and blocking, and Erin Kosta received our for setting, Looks like the girls had a great year! Randi Raff added, that "the j.v. squad had a lot of fun, and that they played well together as a team, and we all look forward to next yeard to receive.

As for the varsity squad, they had a smashing year, and their record improved overall. Members of the varsity squad receiving awards from Coach Kaufman were Kristy Burman with best spassing percentage, Hannah Zimmer with best passing percentage and most hits, and Kristina Brandenburg received the award for most assists. The senior volleyball players ended their last season at Rensselare Central with a strong finish and high spirits. And all the teams had a fun year and gained experience for the next season.

Cara Ockermann proves the long morning practices pay off with her show of endurance.





Running the Distance

Seniors leave big shoes to fill.

The boys' and girls' cross-country teams' long and hard practices show off in their season records. Both had winning and successful seasons and ran in semi-strate.

The gitls' cross-country team started off a great season by working hard and running their hardest. The team won the Logansport Invitational, placed 2nd at the Harrison Invitational, and a blaced 6th at the New Prainel Invitational, and placed 6th at the Hammond Gavit and at the Lafayette Jeff. They won conference, placed second at sectionals, only after Benton Central. The team placed 4th at regionals and made it no semi-state where they and through rain and sand to place 17th. Their season ended with a record of 6 whim and 2 losses. Two seniors, Brenda Johnson and Shana Streitmatter, will be greatly missed and the underclassmen will be preatly missed and the underclassmen will hopefully be able to fill their shoes. Cara Ockermann received the Little "27 sward to complete the season."

The guys' cross-country team had a steady season; and finished a fantastic season with a record of 11 wins and a disappointing loss to Kankakee Valley in the regular season. At the Rensselaer Invitational, the freshmen boys placed 1st, junior boys placed 3rd, and Ben Zimmer, placed 2nd. The team also placed 2nd at the New Prairie Invitational; shit at the Hammond Gavit Invitational. Harrison Invitational and Logansport Invitational, and 5th at the Laftyerte Jefferson Invitational, and 5th and sectional and 3rd at regional. They placed 17th at semi-state where they also had to run through horrible conditions. They will say good-dye to the lone senior, Ben Zimmer, who was the recipient of the Big. 2"Z award.

Both teams hope to improve in time and in placings greatly next year. As a personal challenges, the boys hope to beat Kankakee Valley, while the girls team desires to take sectionals.

Reflecting the fall running events, Coach Bill Zimmer said, "Both teams had successful seasons. It takes a great amount of work to be successful in distance running and these athletes should be proud of themselves.



Its as easy as 1, 2, 3. In the middle picture, Ben Zimmer leads Rensselaer's second and third runners, Matt Schenk and Justin Wiseman, to a win.

Freshman distance runner Dustin Smith sprints









Cassie Frazee slows down after a victory

The Men's Cross-Country seam: (back row from left) Casch Bill Zimmer, Joh Taylor, Mik Koebeke, Ben Zimmer; (middle row) Eric Nystrom, Dustin Smith, Alex Kingman, John Walters; and (front row) Justin Wiseman, John Tiede, Matt Schenk, Seth Streitmater.

The Women's Cross-Country team: (back row from left) Coasch Bill Zimmer, Brenda Johnson, Shana Streitmater; and (front row 2) Taunia Vigeant, Cassie Frazee, Cara Ockermann, and Kristi Zobel. The freshman squad: Coaches Sam Cox and Matt Stevens, Robbie Linback, Larry Hofferth, Zack Zimmer, Wayne Bausman, Randy Russell, Jason Wheeler, Ray Golder, Kyle Johns, Doug Hannon, Chris Crews, Rudy Taulman, Josh

In the photo below, Chris Peck plows forward for a little extra yardage as Kyle Nagel and Cory Malchow look on.





The freshman team prepares for an upcoming game as Coach Stevens assumes the role of quarterback.



Garret Alson scrambles away from a defender with little help from the downpour. His quickness and agility led to many big plays.

Jones, Graham Carrol, Nolan Hitchcock, Justin Rodibaugh, Jeremy Williamson, and Mike Greene.





On his way to perfection Mathew Miger kicks one of his 27 PATs.



The varsity and junior varsity squads: (back row from left) Coaches Sam Cox, Josh Hauser, Chris Meeks, Jim Phillips, Jerry McKim, and Matt Stevens; (top row sitting) Haney Marlin, Tim Yenna, Kyle Nagel, Ryan Standish, Denny Luchene, Daron Lynch, Ryan Geren, Mike Morrison, Kevin Zacher, Matt Edwards: Chris Yenna, Brian Rodibaugh, Jason Scott, Garrett Alson, Matt Kiger, Cory Malchow, Eric Nagel, Chris Peck; Vince Urbano, Kyle Standish, Brian McIntyre, Brad Flemming, Joe Kosta, Phil Healy, Chad Pinkerman, Robby Dunbar; and (front row) Andrew Northcutt, John Scott, Greg Cannon, Brandon Maienbrook, Eric Nowlin, James Oliver, and Brandon Brown.



Rrandon Maienbrook (47) cuts to the middle as Kyle Standish (82) widens the hole.

Bombing The End-Zone

Bomber coaches reflect on the season.

The mighty Bomber football teams shot through the season with fierce and competitive spirit. All teams were very athletic and explosive which made up for their lack of size and numbers as they challenged every team on the schedule.

victories to finish 2-5. "After a rough start the Winamac. "This was an exciting team from freshman team finished up strong with victories over Lafavette Jeff and Twin Lakes. Way to finish up explosive offensively and could score a lot of strong fellas," said Matt Stevens who, with Sam Cox, coached the first year team. Anyone who watched the freshman team play saw their determi- the fine athletes of this team," complimented nation and drive for success.

The junior varsiry squad had a little more success in the win-loss category finishing 6-3. The team lacked players and with nearly everyone on the field at all times fatigue became a major factor. However, the players fought it off and were able to dominate most of their opponents. "These guys achieved more than anyone's expectations, including my own," said Coach Hauser

The varsity Bomber football started off with a bang as the team kicked off the season with an explosive win over a very quick South Newton team. The Bombers, headed by its mass of seniors, went on to a 4-6 season that The freshman team ended the season with two ended in a disappointing sectional loss to the standpoint of team speed. They were points fast. We were competitive in every contest and I was proud to be associated with Coach Jerry McKim.

> The Bombers' tenacious defense, coached by Chris Meeks, was also a strong point of the team. Senior Eric Nowlin, who led the defense, received all-conference status. Senior Greg Cannon and junior Garrett Alson represented the Bomber offense as all-conference picks. Junior Matt Kiger and senior Brandon Maienbrook received honorable mention.

Kim Nagel and Hannah Zimmer, seniors who have been playing basketball together since they were in fourth grade, hug for the last minute of the last sectional game. Unfortunately, it was their last game in their high school carrees.

In the photo below, Stacy Johns, a junior, shoots for two as they battle against the Central Catholic High school basketball team.





Girls Basketball

Take to the hoops for the 1997-1998 Season.

All of the girls basketball during the 1997-1998 season were teams that showed Rensselaer Pride at its best. All tried their hardest for a win at every game and in the end, and they all did well.

The freshman team of fifteen was always ready to give it their best effort. They had a new coach, Sairn Joestudent Kelly Fink, to help them through the season. Every practice they would gear up for the next win and learned to work together as a team. As a result they won the Kankakee Valley tournament in December. The freshman team ended their season with a record of 6-12, and although a losing season, a winner for the girls.

The junior varsity team, coached by Coach Linda Kaufman, also did their best at every game and practice. They had a few new players who made the team bigger and better than ever There were also four seniors to help them battle things out. They worked hard for victories and won nearly all of their games, ending their season with a record of 19-1.

The varsity team had a great season. With five seniors on the team, they played to make 1997-1998 memorable. They accomplished just that. Each game they went out expecting a win, and they got it most of the time. During sectionals, they started out great, winning their first game but unfortunately losing a tough game to West Lafayette. The varsity team showed their Bomber spirit and made Rensselaer proud finishing 14-8.

Senior, Kim Nagel, varsity power forward, summed up the season: "The season was rough but in the end we pulled ourselves together for a heartbreaking finish." The Varsity Girls Basketholl team, (top row from left): Jill Anstin, Kim Nagel, Coath Linda Kaufman, Coath Marian Honzay, Coath Chaisif Yeoman, Hamanh Zimmer, Holly Roff, and Stephanie Jordan (second row from Jeft): Aimee Clouer, Tara Wood, Kara Tiede, and Mitchelle Mattock (front row from left): Jesica Fredrick, Kristina Bandenburg, Kristina Burman, and Sana Putt







Junior Varsity Team, (top row from left): Lori Lane, Tara Wood, Sara Cummings, Coach Linda Kaufman, Michelle Mattocks, Michelle Kiger, and Sarah Bailey (front row from left): Kara Tiede, Erin Kosta, Tara Burman, and Angela Koebeke





Freihmen girls basketball team, (up from left): Ashley Streitmatter, Christina Jacobson, Ashley Zeilmann, Randi Roff, Statie Plett, Coath Kelly Fink, (middle row from left): Abby Canaday, Trista Querry, Sara Wakeland, Clarista Bower, Jamie VanHouten, (bottom row from left): Kaye Rodibaugh, Amanda DeWeet, Tara Burman, Alicia Standish, Leesa Murphy

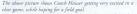
Erin Kosta, a sophomore, waits patiently for a team mate to get open so they can make the shot.

The Varity Boyt Bakeshold Squad: (top rout from left) Astistant Coach Derrick Klute, Eric Nowlin, Matt Lanoue, Jared Yoey"
Kossa, Mart Plett, Brandon Brown, Brandon Mainebrook, and Head Coach Jobs Hauser, and (bostom rous) Managers Matt Pieze and Christ Hudson, Matt Kieger, Brett Kasonowich, Dave Ritner, Garrett Alson, Justin Roberts, and Manager Kevin Zacher.

Junior Matt Kiger goes strong to the basket with an easy dish- in against North Newton.







The center picture captures Matt Plett as he started Bomber Basketball with a giant leap for the ball against North Newton. In the right of the center picture, senior Matt Lanoue makes one of his many free-throws of the season.

Pietured directly to the right is the freshmen Boy's Baskesball Team: (top row from left) David Fields, Seeve Dumas, Garrett Broock, Wen Mattock, (Soach Ermic Waston; (middle row) Corey Spurgeon, Justin Virok, Brian Lakin, Essar Woodworth, Doug Hanson, and (front row) Rudy Taulman, Jesse Kennedy, Justin Redibaugh, Mark Alson, and Colin Riley.











The team picture to the left is of the 1997-98 Boys' Junior Varsity team, (back row from left) Coach Derrick Klute, Alex Kingman, Eric Nagel, Charlie Swartzell, Brett Kasonovich, Matt Kiger, and Adam Alson; and (front row) Chad Witherington, Iared Courtney, Justin Roberts, Brian Rodibaugh, and Kevin Gillespie

Freshman Doug Hannon takes the ball to the net, while concentrating on a close game with Valparaiso.



Boys Basketball

"It's Time to Get Live, It's Time to Represent"

season did not end with best record. The Bombers were excited with the way the season ended. their theme shows the fans just that. The regular season concluded at 8-13. The Bombers started slowly; however, toward the middle and end of the season, the team was on a streak of

Heading into the sectional competition, the Bombers were blessed with a bye in the first round. In round two the Bombers were matched with Twin Lakes, where the crowd played a major factor. Coach Hauser later told the student body how important their appearance Kasonovich, best free throw percentage; and was, which gave RCHS a victory over North Matt Plett, mental attitude. Newton earlier that year, and a near win in sectional play. The final score Indians 41 - the

Rensselaer, What time is it? Although the Bombers 38. It was fantastic finale to the end of a slowly started season.

On awards night Rensselaer sent two individuals to the All-Conference and All-Academic teams: Brandon Majenbrook and Matt Plett. Majenbrook was also named second team All-Area. Individual honors were as follows: Garrett Alson, most assists: Matt Lanoue, most improved and captain award: Brandon Brown, most rebounds; Dave Risner, best field goal percentage; Brandon Maienbrook, most steals and captain award; Eric Nowlin, Mr. Hustle; Brett

To the right, seniors Kim Rodibaugh, Barb Woodke, and Marie Nagel discuss the next cheer during a J.V. game.

The junior varsity cheerleading squad from left to right: Leslie Kennedy, Alisha Harper, Kim McClellan, Sarah Sayler, and Megan Casey.





Spirit, Dedication Pays Off:

Cheerleaders finish the year with success

Spirit, dedication, and hard work helped the Bomber Cheerleaders achieve success the 1997-98 athletic season. The cheerleaders, led by seniors Cookie Bryant, Marie Nagel, Kim Rodibaugh, Barb Woodke, and Megan Marshall, began the year during the hot summer months as they prepared for NCA camp and competition. While at camp they received numerous awards, including the Herkie Team Award for spirit, Best of Camp in the Chant division, the Superior Freshman Award, and a qualifying bid for the National Cheerleading Competition. Megan Marshall, Kim Rodibaugh, Marie Nagel, Lauren McIntyre, Rebecca Hanson, Megan Casey, Nicole Goodman, and Jessica Mercer were selected to receive the honor of being included in the NCA All-American Cheerleading Program.

Following camp the three teams participated and won the title of Lafayette Area Champions. As the season progressed the cheerleaders continued to improve their skills, build new friendships, and promote school spirit. They thrived under pressure and rose to meet any challenge presented by the neighboring schools' cheerleaders.

The year climaxed when the Bombers traveled to Valparaiso University to compete in the Midwest Regional Cheer Competition. The time, effort, anticipation, and enthusiasm was rewarded with a varsity victory for the second year in a row and second place finish for the combined J.V. and freshman squads. The 1997-98 cheerleaders proved that through persistence, spirit, and a love for the sport they could conquer the toughest challenges and continue with a smile on their faces!





Morgan Keiper, looks over her shoulder to see the crowd anxiously awaiting the announcement of the 1998 Homecoming queen.

The Freshman Cheerleaders: (front row from left) Nicole Goodman; (second row) Jessica Arnett and Megan Wood; (third row) Danelle Nagel; and (fourth row) Jessica Mercer and Alison Moore.





Kim McClellan closes her eyes as she concentrates on a chant, during a junior varsity basketball game.

The varsity squad: (front row) Marie Nagel, Meg Marshall, and Lauren McIntyre; (second row) Cookie Bryant; (third row) Kim Rodibaugh, Morgan Keiper, Rebekah Hansen, and Barb Woodke. Jumping off the starting block, the boys dive get a good start en route to win another race.

Ryan Brown and his proud parents, Janet and Michael Brown, parade before onlookers on senior night.







Check out this senior leadership. Before the viewer are the cappains, the leaders of the guys and girls swim teams. Kind of scary int it! From left to right. Ryan Brown, Brian Cummings, Paul Dumas, Rea Nussbam, Lacy Zobel, Rachel Waling, Ericka Saylor, and Ben Zimmer.

The boys are posing with pride by exposing their crazy hair, all done up for Sectional Week.





The 1997-98 hoy! suim team takes a rare opportunity to enjoy 1998 i El Nino (front row from left) Chris Kellow. Ryan Standish, Eric Nystrom, Marcus Davis, Brian Cummings, Josh Clouse, Ray Golder, Andrew Earnest; and (back row) Coach Amanda Hauser, Luke Tillest, Jared Steffen, Ben Crotteau, Ryan Brown, Paul Dumas, Ben Zimmer, Chris Wilcox, and Coach Dan Kellow

Another relay race progresses in true Bomber style, usually a great success.



Paddling Faster Than Ever

The boys retake Northwest Hoosier Conference.

With four seniors leading the way, the 1997-98 Bomber boys swim team succeeded more than they envisioned at the start of the season. Led by seniors Ryan Brown, Paul Dumas, Ben Zimmer, and Brian Cummings, the floaters experienced a winning year and provided the next year's team with a challenge to do better.

"We didn't know how the season would go because we had a young team. As the season progressed, the times began to drop and we had a great season," said senior Brian Cummings.

And they did have a great season. The men won a majority of their meets and the North West Hoosier Conference title. Coach Kellow and Coach Hauser expressed their pride for a job well done.

Adding additional points to many of the meets were Ray Golder and Brian Cummings, both of whom were outstanding in the diving well.

"This year was better than last year because we had more senior leadership and more team members, and that adds up to more team spirit. And we pulled through and won the North West Hoosier Conference," said sophomore Andy Earnest. To the right Lindsey Bailey swims the butterfly. Lindsey worked her hardest to learn how to swim the butterfly, and by the end of the season she was one of the best in her event, and, as a result, she won the trophy for most improved.

Rachel Waling swims the breast stroke in the photo below. The seasoned senior swimmer allowys tried her hardest; consequently, her breaststroke that was already the best of the team, perfected the stroke and became one of the fastest in that category in the conference. And Rachel won two medals, one for top five points and the other for "exprit de corp."





In the above photo Candice Wilkerson swims breaststroke. (She swam all of the strokes and never complained.)

To the right Elizabeth Fish swims the butterfly, an event in which she did a really great job. Elizabeth won a medal for scoring in the top five points and a trophy for her calm attitude.







To the lift is the team picture to pow tearing from the lift in right/caseh Junghla sands Brown Reas Nussbaum Rachel Walling Lasy Zabel Erics. Spyler Jestics Tauluman Deitre Hopkin: Beth Houston Garra Spence Casch Amanda Hauser Daric Domelly. The middle row/from left to right): Heather Lyon. Trisson Styder Candice Wilkerom Tausy lage Casey Good Lasy Garwien Elizabeth Fish Kristi Zabel and Amanda Catwien. The front reciffont left to right): Housen. The first medifon left with right): Hirom Vahitansa Abili Velon Britany. Steveny Lindon Bailey Any Lakin Lausa Brown Meelgaw Smith and Brandie Chamberlain

SWIM HARD OR GO HOME

The Ladies' Varsity Swim Team had another great season in 1997-98. With ten wins and nine losses, the ladies all swam their hardest and did their best to win, and no matter if they won or lost, the team was very supportive of their tearmates. Many of the ladies on the team were new to the sport and had never swam in high school competition before. All of the teammates, whether they were beginners or vererans, did very well, swam to the best of their ability, and had fun.

At the conference meet, the team won first in the four hundred freestyle relay race receiving a medal and finished second overall. The other schools that participated were Lowell placing first, Rensselaer placing second, Kankakee Valley placing third, North Judson placing fourth, and North Newton placing fifth. The team's captains were both supportive, while they looked at performances and made decisions that would benefit the team.

When sectional time came, the ladies put forth their best efforts. Second round qualifiers were as follows: Medley Relay Team, 200 IM, 100 Fly, 100 Free, 200 Relay, 100 Back, 100 Breast, and 400 Free Relay.

Award winners for the 1997-98 year were Rachel Waling, Sarah Brown, Jessica Taulman, and Lacy Zobel, as part of the "Top Five Poin Getters," and Gavra Spence, who received "Most Valuable Swimmer." The four seniors, Ericka Sayler, Rachel Waling, Lacy Zobel, and Reas Nussbaum received the "esprit de corps" award. Lindsay Bailey earned the "Most Improved." The "Mental Attitude" awards were given to Jessica Taulman and Beth Fish. The two captains received the "Captain" awards.

The season was enjoyed by all the athletes as well as the coaches. Even with some disappointments, the year was, by far, a success for every hard swimming athlete.

Senior James Oliver, leading the team at 145 pounds, waits for the whistle as he pins his opponent in the Rensselaer Invitational.

Senior Greg Cannon, grappling at 150 pounds, quickly pins his Benton Central rival at the annual dual meet.









Sophomore Kyle Nagel, sweating at the 135 pound level, squeezes for a victory.

Senior Brad Fleming, battling at 160 pounds, cradles his opponent for another Bomber victory.

Sophomore Andy Blasky, overpowering at 119 pounds, holds his Kankakee Valley foe down on the mat as the ref makes the count.



Bomber wrestlers: (Top row from left) Head Coach Chris Meeks, Matt McAleer, Charlie Todd, Brad Fleming, Jason Scott, Greg Cannon, Josh Jones, Mike Morrison, Assistant Coach Matt Anderson; (middle row) Manager Mark Nagel, Cory Malchow, Kenny Wright, Bryan McIntyre,



James Oliver, Nolan Hitchcock, Tom Alberts, Elliot Zimmer, Tim Yenna, Manager Scott Miller; and (bottom rowy) Manager Stacy Johns, Zach Taylor, Kyle Nagel, Isra Hendon, Kyle Johns, Andy Blasky, Marcus Thornton, John Tiede, Mike Greene, and Assistant Coach Chris Stone.

Kyle Johns at 103 takes a position for a pin.



Settle it on the Mat

Bomber wrestlers take down opponents

The Bomber wrestlers remained some of the most dedicated and hardest working athletes at RCHS. This feat was proven once again as the 1997-98 wrestling team had yet another impressive season. Overall, the wrestlers finished the regular season at 18-2. "Beating McCutcheon was a big win for us," explained Coach Chris Meeks. "With only six returning seniors this year, we knew we'd have some growing pains, but I was quite pleased with the season," he added.

The wrestlers as a team unfortunately did not advance in the sectional. During this season, new teams were introduced in the Rensselaer sectional that became a bigger challenge; however, the Bombers did quite well individually. "Having three individuals advance to semi-state was great, especially for a school our size." com-septially for a school our size." com-

mented Coach Meeks. These three outstanding individual wrestlers were Kyle Johns (103 pounds), James Oliver (145 pounds), Greg Cannon (150 pounds.) This was the first time since '86 that the Bombers went to a State wrestling competition. James went on to become the first wrestler ever to place at the state level in Bomber wrestling history, and as a result he gained a sixth place medal. Coach Meeks explained, 'James worked really hard and had a great year, he definitely deserved his success.'

Looking on to next year, Meeks said that losing several seniors will be tough, but how hard everyone works this summer will dictate next year's season. As an end result, all of the laboring on the mat, coupled with determination paid off as the 1997-98 Bomber Wrestling team finished with a season to be proud of.

To the right, freshman David Wiener warms up at Sandy Pines in DeMotte, while he waits for the bottleneck on #8 to open up.

In the photo below, junior Alex Abel has unfortunately hit his ball into the sand trap and has an uphill battle to get up and on the green.





Seniors Lead Men's Golf Successes

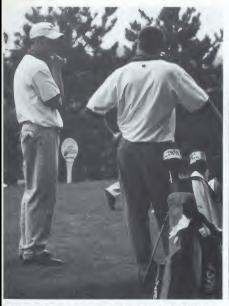
The 1998 mens' golf team was a success. Six new members joined the team as freshman, and Paul Dumas as the leading member of the returning players, offered much support to his new teammates. The outcome for the sport had more wins than losses.

Evan Woodworth, freshman member of the team, said that he really enjoyed how the upperclassman always were joking around with him and made him feel comfortable. "We all worked together and had a good year. I was very nervous the first couple of matches, but I stuck with it and did very well overall. Everything went great and we ended with a winning season. I am excited to play

again next year."

Seniors Paul Dumas and Micah Beaver had an exceptional year. Paul was the first Rensselaer player to receive first place at the Rensselaer Invitational since the early 1980's. The team also received first in conference. Both senior golfers moved on the LaPorte regional tournament a week after they graduated with hopes that at least on Bomber would advance to the state finals. Both teammates were regarded as the most consistent to the team's effort during the season by Coach Rich Stefanich.

Dumas made the decision to continuing following the little white ball, when he signed a letter of intent to play on Butler University's team.



To the left, top varsity player Paul Dumas is deeply contemplating his thort hole strategy, when Micah Beaver turns to speak as the Kankakee Valley Invisional. Even though golf is an individual sport, all members try their hardest to work together as a team so everyone can golf to their full potential.





Tom Alberts is heading towards the next hole. He also seems to be expecting a sudden rainfall.

The 1998 boyi golf team: (front row from left) Chris Wilcox, Brad Kaye, Ewan Woodworth, David Weiner, and Nolan Hitchcock; and (eccond row) Manager Dede Weiner, Charlie Swartzell, Tom Alberts, Mark Nagel, Paul Dumas, Micab Beaver, Alex Abel, Steve Dumas, Coach Stefanich, and Manager Kasey Anderson.

In the photo directly to the right, Sara Putt is finishing the second leg of the 4x800.

In the far right photo, Kristina Brandenburg jumps for a victory at the RMD.

Stephanie Jordan soars over the bar.















The 1998 girls i track team; (back run from left) Castel Maryle, Memsan, Christia Jackson, Lean Maryle, Amber Lastader, Clarius Buser, Krity Kellen, Sura Wakeland, Suphanie Fair, Darei Dannell, Yang Iogo, Melius Gilber, Linday Fair, Triatan Suyder, Casch Linda Kaufmann, Jennifer Whitaker, Castelina Marian Herasy (Farra vulo Cusie Fasca, Jenica Tasubane, Cara Octormann, Sura Patt, and Jenica Farrisis.

Andrea Nussbaum starts off the record breaking 4x800 relay.



Running Into A New Year

Girls 1997-98 Track Team

The 1998 Girls Track Team had an impressive season year with an overall record of 22-7. They sent seven events to regionals. Among these were Jessica Fredrick participating in 100 hurdles, 300 hurdles, and long jump. Kristy Kellner was a participant in the discus. Kristina Brandenburg went in long jump and the 100 meter dash. While the 4x800 relay team consisting of Andrea Nusbaum, Sara Putt, Cara Ockermann, and Cassie Frazee also advanced.

At regionals Fredrick placed 7th in 100 hurdles and Kellner placed 8th in discus.

"At regionals," says Jessica

Fredrick," I feel we all did our best and we all had fun."

The girls worked hard all year whether it was at practice or at the meets. They ran rain or shine trying to be all that they could be. All of their efforts paid off. The distance medley team broke the school record at the Gene Edmond's Relays with a time of 9:55.3. The participants of this relay were Andrea Nussbaum, Kristina Brandenburg, Stephanie Jordan, and Cassie Frazee. There was also another record broken by this same team, when the 4x800 relay ran the course with a time of 10:22.





In the picture on the far right Andrew Schulenburg races to the finish at the RMD.

Directly to the right, Justin Virok jumps throwing himself forward into the sand nit

STRIVING FOR A GREAT YEAR OF BOY'S TRACK

The 1998 Boys' Track season was rated as an over all rewarding year. "Considering the youth of our team we had a very good year. The boys improved throughout the year and have great potential for the next few years," stated Mr. Bill Zimmer

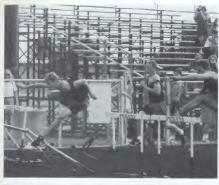
Matt Schenk and Ben Zimmer advanced to regional. Ben placed first in the mile at conference. It was a trying year for the boys; however, they pulled through with over all improvement.

Continuing in his fleet-footed running career in high school, Ben Zimmer placed first a regionals advancing to state. He also broke the school record. Ben placed tenth in the state finals and achieved his personal best time in the mile. The old record was set at 4:24.9 in 1982 by Chris Kelly. Ben set the new record at 4:20.41 at the state meet. He also became the second only 12 letter winner at RCHS.

"Ben topped off a great career at the state meet. I hope this inspires others to work hard and set new goals," said Coach Zimmer.

The many hours of hard work paid off with over all wins at five and loses at nine. Although the boys had a struggling year they still had great over all achievement and much success to come for future years.

"The track team had a tough time this year but had a surprisingly good performance at conference," said Chris Peck.







To the left Brian Lakin and Eric Nagel hurdle for the chance to a great finish.

In the photo in the center of the page, Coach Zimmer encourages Matt Schenk to pull through until the end of the race.

In the photo below, Ben Zimmer strides for a long run to the finish.



The 1998 boy's trusk krams (top row from the left) Caseb Dan The Mann Kellow. Costs Bill Zimmer, Rob Pfell, Fire Nagyl, John Hale, Brad Fleming, Andrew Nortkeatt, Jush Taybr, Ben Zimmer, Caseb Tom Landarus (Georal row) Elline Zimmer, Andrew Schulmbarg, Chris Kellow, Justin Vrus, Miler Koebeke, Alex Kingman, Justin Wireman, Byan Standih, Mant Schenk, Har Kingman, Justin Wireman, Byan Standih, Mant Schenk, Marvus Danis, Byan Tamit, Mant Stada, Eric Nytoma and Seds Derimonal

In the far right photo, Anne Chapman and Kristy Burman get ready to retun with a slam.

To the right, Stacey Plett is just hitting the ball.

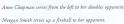
Randi Raff serves a tasty dish to the other side.















The 1998 girls' tennis team: (back row from left) Darron Hauss (CKP.), Janel Bailey, Michelle Mattock; Lauren Koebeke, Sam Cammings, Saere Plett, Rekebak Hausen, Sarah Bowan, Randi Raffi, and (front row) Krisry Burman, Lindsey Jeffries, Anne Okapman, Alion Allie, Sarah Bailey, Alicia Standish, Menghan Smith, and Laura Brown.

Michelle Mattocks waits in ready inposition as she volleys over the



What a Racket!

Girls'Tennis

This years tennis team was a fun and new experience for the whole team. We started this season with a lack of knowledge about the game of tennis, but as the year went by we slowly learned new things. And by the end of the season we were a new and improved tennis team.

The tennis corporation has only been at Rensselaer for three years, so we went up against some surrounding teams that were harder and more experienced. But with our new coach, Darrin Hauss, who was a tennis player for Saint Josephs college, really taught the techniques that we needed to know in order to compete with harder teams.

Compared to the previous tennis records, this years record has improved tremendously from zero wins to six for seven. Overall I think the girls are happy with how the year ended and are looking forward to next years season to improve even

Along with all the hard work at practices there was also a lot of fun. The road trips to distance schools and even the home games at Rensselaer were exciting and fun. We were always looking forward to getting another win and I'm sure we will return next year with the same attitude.

Dave Risner rips in one of his specialty fast balls during a home game.



The 1998 Varsity Baseball Team: (front row from left) Managers Candite Wilkerson, Ann Shide, Heather Lyon, Kim Nagel; (row two) Irest Hendon, Garrett Alon, Jain Futzel, Jusijin Roberts, Saan Cawby, and Joh Smith; and (row three) Coach Matt Stevens, Adam Alson, Jared Courtney, Mart Kiger, Dave Ritner, Matt Lanoue, Matt McAlear, Kyle Standish, and Coach Clay Webb.



BOMBER BASEBALL

Rensselaer Bombers Play it Safe

The 1998 Bomber Baseball team had a little tougher time in 1998 executing the game plan. Due to a strong 1997 graduating class, the younger Bombers got off to a slow start. "Losing most of our power from last year is what got us" Coach Matt Stevens said. He also commented, "Eventhough we have more quickness than last year, it is hard to use it to potential, because we have a young team. Talent is no issue, but experience is".

Even though this year was a bit down, their is nothing to worry about for the years to come in Bomber baseball. With key players returning like pitcher/outfielder Dave Risner, catcher/left fielder Justin Roberts, pitcher/second basemen Matt Kiger, and short stop Carrett Alson, and a number of talented sophomores, the Bombers will be good to go.

Junior Roberts commented, "We just

haven't had the breaks this year. There were just too many one or two run games that we just couldn't get in the end." He also said, "Even though we had a down season, I had a great time getting to know the guys and am looking forward to next years season."

Teammate Kiger believed that the hitting was also a bit down from years past. "If we work on our hitting, and we start to come around, we will be a wrecking crew." He also had faith and was looking forward to next years' 1999 team. "Next year we won't be so inexperienced, so hopefully we will be doing some major damage."

"The season games are just practice for tournament time in May and by then it is anyone's game" said junior Alson. The Bombers hoped to finish up strong by winning the remainder of their games to give them the edge for sectionals. Unfortunately, they lost a close one to Kankakee Valley to end the season.



To the left, Matt Lanoue waits for a hot one on the left side.

Directly below, first baseman Matt McAleer stretches for the out.





Matt Kiger comes up with a new strategy to thwart the South Newton pitcher's plan to issue a "K."

The 1998 Junior Varity team: (from left to right) Managers Candick Wilkerten, Amy Shide, Heather Lyons, and Kim Nagel, (row two) Wady Taulman, Kipl John, Junit Roddingh, Mark Alson, Graham Carroll, Ryan Samley (row throe) Bryan Roddiough, Wes Mattocks, Josh Barden, Kipl Nagel, Junist Holbrook, Jeus Konnedy, Brett Kuonowich, Kevin Rayburn, Kevin Zacher and Caach Clay Web.



To the right is the Varsity Softball Team: (back row from left) Caach Sindi Wansley, Michelle Kiger, Jody Graf, Beth Hannon, Lori Lane, January Marlatt, Coach Roundi: (middle row) Jamie Vanbouten, Taunia Vigeant, Jodic Lakin, Sacy Johns, Peper Brack, Tabatha Martin, RaeAnn Lanoue; and (kneeling) Angie Nagel, Nicole Nagel, Mag Marshall, Nicole Amsler, Tara Burman, and Amber Mattock.

Sophomore first baseperson January Marlatt cautiously watches for any balls in her direction.





At third base, freshman Michelle Kiger is ready for action by patrolling her corner.

To the right, junior Jodie Lakin fires in a fast one during the Fillie-Bomber game in Kouts.







Beth Hannon catches a pop-fly at an intense Kouts-Rensselaer game.

The Junior Varnity Softball Team: (back row from left) Coach Sindi Wamsley, Shannon Lakin, Kristen Wickert, Coach Rebecca Rounds; (middle row) Jamie Vanhousten, Jessica Anthony, Kristi Zobel, Taunia Vigeant, Heather Hoffmeyer; and (kneeling) Casey Hermanson, Pepper Brock, Meg Marshall, Nicole Amsler, Tabatha Marrim, and Courtney Lakin.



GIRLS SLIDE INTO A NEW SPORT

GIRLS SOFTBALL, CHALLENGING AND NEW

Spring 1998 was a great beginning for the new girls softball team at RCHS. It was a complete team of rookies, but that didn't bother the girls at all. The proud red and black were full of excitement and held a positive atmosphere for their season. These girls gave 100% effort to their new found team. The Wamsley wonders may not have achieved the record of wins to losses as they might have liked to, but as Beth Hannon of the varsity team said, "I loved everything about our season. Yes, everyone said we wouldn't win very much, but I think we won with our good atti-

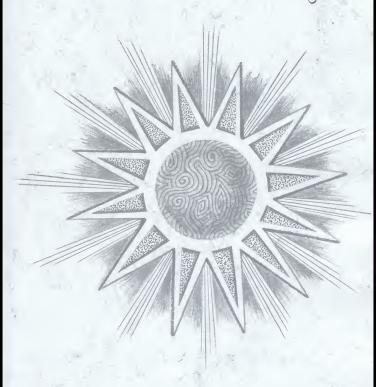
tudes!"

Tabatha Martin of the junior varsity team said, "I too really enjoyed my season. We girls really put our hearts into the game. It was a good thing too, because this is a game where you need dedication."

Stacy Johns agreed with both of the girls and added, "I'm definitely coming back next year!" With all of that said, it is for sure a great outlook for next year. If the girls softball team keeps the same attitude they had during their premiere season, next year will be just as good or even better.



People



Faculty XIIIO Facult FACULTY Annoy



Linda Anderson Jan Benner Diana Bierman Steve Brandenburg Shirley Bretzinger Walt Brown Debbie Brownfield

Terry Butler Lynn Clark Stephanie Conley Sam Cox David Day Iim Earnest Deanna George

Iulia Gibbs Robert Hainje Debbie Hannon Josh Hauser Heather Heinig Jill Henaday

Ianet Herre Marian Horazy Melinda Johnson Maureen Jungblut Dan Kellow Lynn Kiger Ianet Kingman

Tom Landrum Ierry McKim Doug McKinley Amiee McKuhen Chris Meeks Nancy Messman Vikki Nagel

Luetta Nussbaum Bill Oates John Potter Tammy Pottinger Deb Price Chris Risner

Tom Ryan

Amy Scamerhorn Norma Schuette Pat Sitz Alice Smith Kelley Spurgeon Matt Stevens Jane Swartzell



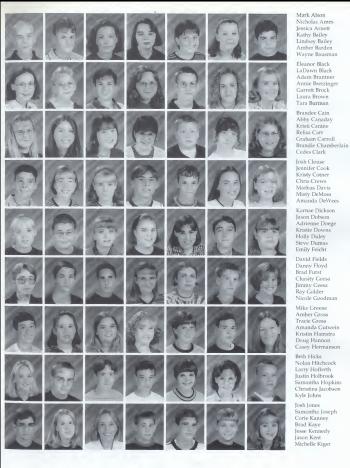




In the photo directly to the left, members of the Rensselaer Central School Board: (standing from left to right) Dan Alson, Joe Maienbrook, James Donnelly, and Kendell Culp; and (sitting) Mr. Dave Nagel, Mr. Gene Suhr, and Mrs. Jean

In the photo to the far left, Iulia Gibbs helps Rainey Arnett with homework.

Freshmen NHNHSHXI Freshmen Freshmen Freshme FRESHMEN reshm



Freshmen

Kara Kosta Amy Lakin Brian Lakin Courtney Lakin Shannon Lakin Suzanne LeGrand Robert Linback Matt Lovely Alina Lucas Danielle Magers Carmen Marrero Wes Martin Wes Mattocks Tiffany Maxwell Jessica Mercer Allison Moore Leesa Murphy Danelle Nagel Ashli Nelson Eric Nystrom Angela Owsley David Peterson Lesley Peterson Travis Peterson Amber Platt Stacy Plett Betsy Primeau Kevin Raber Jr. Randi Raff Colin Riley Serenity Roberts Justin Rodibaugh Kaye Rodibaugh Randy Russell Matt Schenk Travis Sizemore Dustin Smith Gavra Spence Cory Spurgeon John Stalbaum Alicia Standish Kristin Stath Ashley Streitmatter Ehren Stuff Ryan Tanis Rudy Taulman Abby Thiel John Tiede Matt Tychek Elizabeth Vanderkleed Jamie VanHouten Justin Virok Sara Wakeland John Walter Aanya Warran Blake Weiss Jason Wheeler Melissa Whitaker

Freshmen











Sarah Whited David Wiener Chris Wilcox Jeremy Williamson Megan Wood Cortny Woodruff









Alicia Young Ashley Zeilmann Stella Zicherl Elliott Zimmer Zak Zimmer Kristi Zobel









Jessica Mercer and Misty DeMoss pose for the camera.

The freshman class of 2001 take their first high school achievement test. Larry Hofferth (left) and Adrianne Doege (right) appear in the forground.

Sophomores **OPHOMORES** Sophomores ophomores SOPHOMORES Sophomore ophor

SOPHOMORES



Mike Aichner Adam Alson Joshua Anselm Rayne Arnett Amber Baggerly Sarah Bailey Andrew Blasky

Myranda Braun Kelli Bridges Mark Brouwer Allen Burns Heather Byers Wade Campbell Nicole Cannon

April Carr Megan Casey Rachel Clark Brandon Conley Jonathan Cooper Jared Courtney Cristal Cox

Jeremy Culbreth Sara Cummings Kyle Curtis Brad Daniels Shannon Daniels Cloey Darnaby Justin Davis

Brian Delaney Darci Donnelly Julie Dresher Andy Earnest Matthew Edwards Michael Edwards Michelle Filson

Cassie Frazee Melissa Gilbert Kevin Gillespie Christa Goodman Jody Graf Mike Gross Kristy Hail

Jonathan Hale Brian Hannon Rebekah Hansen Joshua Hardin Sarah Hardin Alisha Harper Brandon Hatfield

Lisa Hause Nathan Hornbeck Nicole Howell Trisha Huhn Tanya Igoe Glenn Ingram Lindsey Jeffries

Debbie Jennings Kim Joseph Justin Kanney Morgan Keiper Leslie Kennedy Amanda Kerkes Heather Kidd

SOPHOMORES

Kyle Kohlhagen Brett Kosanovich Erin Kosta Lori Lane Jamie Lewis Brandon Lockridge Joey Lucas

> Dennis Luchene James Luttrell Julie Luttrell Amber Luzadder Daron Lynch Heather Lyons Heath Malone

Angela Manns January Marlatt Haney Marlin Nycole Martin Stacey Martin Tom Martin Levi Mattingly

Amber Mattocks Michelle Mattocks Kim McClellan Lisa McMillan Kevin McNamara Jennifer Mikula Michelle Miller

Jamie Minix Kari Mitchell Elizabeth Morris Eric Nagel Kyle Nagel Nicole Nagel Cassie Norrington

Michael Osterfeld Travis Owsley Chris Peck Selina Peterson Matt Pizer Anna Poppen Dannielle Pruett

Jamie Pucka Brandy Putman Kristen Putt Ian Querry Amanda Robins Bryan Rodibaugh Maria Rodriguez

> Ron Sampson Luke Sayers Sarah Sayler Robin Schneidt Jason Schultz Josh Scott Nicole Serna

David Shanley Krista Shelhart Amy Shide Tom Siebert Chris Smith Kristina Smith Meeghan Smith



SOPHOMORES



Tristan Snyder Chris Spurr Amanda St. John Ryan Standish Ryan Stanley Jarod Steffen

> Charlie Swartzell Brittany Sweeney Christina Teske Kara Tiede Courtney Tillotta Peter Tychek Scott Walker

Patty Wheeldon Jennifer Whitaker Candice Wilkerson Pat Williams Iill Wiltfang Josh Wireman Angela Wood

Ashley Wood Tara Wood Kenny Wright Kristina Wright Chris Yenna Tim Yenna Ray Yeoman

Adam Zacek Kevin Zacher Joseph Zicherl

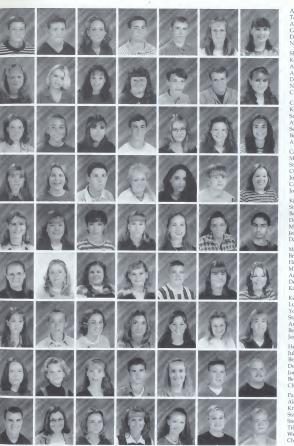


Sarah Bailey and Erin Kosta have a great time at the after prom activities '97, when the pull their senior boys in a relay race.

The sophomores are captured in the depths of the first "real" ISTEP test.

Juniors SHOIN Juniors JUNIORS SJOI

Juniors



Alex Abel Tom Alberts Allison Allie Garrett Alson Dan Amsler Nicole Amsler

Shelly Bailey Kathy Baker Amanda Barden Ashley Baunach Dawn Bierman Nick Black Craig Blasco

Candice Bower Kelly Brantner Sarah Brown Angela Carter Sean Cawby Betty Clark Aimee Clouse

Candace Cook Megan Critser Stacie Cross Chris Crynes Jodi Daniels Carrie Day Joe Dennis

Kim Edwards Stephanie Faris Beth Fish Danielle Frazee Mary Jo Frederick Jessica Fredrick Dana Garretto

Mahendra Gaud Brooke Geesa Heather Geesa Michelle Gibbs Amanda Gilbert Derek Goad Kasey Goad

Kelly Gudeman Lucy Gutwein Yo Gutwein Staci Hamstra Amy Hanewich Beth Hannon Jessica Hinkle

Heather Hofmeyer Julie Honn Brienne Hopkins Desiree Hopkins Joe Hopp Beth Houston Chris Hudson

Paul Irwin Alan James Kristina Jarrette Stacy Johns Stephanie Jordan Tiffany Jordan Wendi Joseph Chris Kellow

Matt Kiger Alex Kingman Angela Koebcke Mike Koebcke Kelly Kulik Brandon Lakin Iodie Lakin Barb Lewis Ambyr Lucas Iim Luzadder Tabatha Martin Lauren McIntyre Laura Meyers Ali Miller Katie Mitchell Mark Moore Brandi Moorhouse Laura Morrical Brian Nagel Jake Nagel Scott Neely Shannon Nesius Andrea Nussbaum Jatin Patel Amy Peterson Rob Pfaff Stephanie Plant Ryan Rayonec Brendan Riley Dave Risner **Justin Roberts** Jason Robinson Kristina Russell Amanda Sargent Cole Schultz Iason Scott Mark Slade Tiffany Stalbaum Amanda Stone Brandy Stone Sarah Stone IR Studer Jenny Swope Beth Tatlock Jessica Taulman Josh Taylor Luke Tillett Charlie Todd Andrea Virok Kelly Vogt Susan Wakeland

> Dede Wiener Libby Weston Mandy Whitaker Kristin Wickert Jennifer Wicks Dave Williams Holly Wing

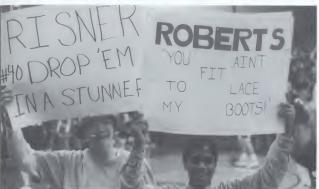






Justin Wiseman Chad Witherington Hiromi Yoshizaua

Juniors

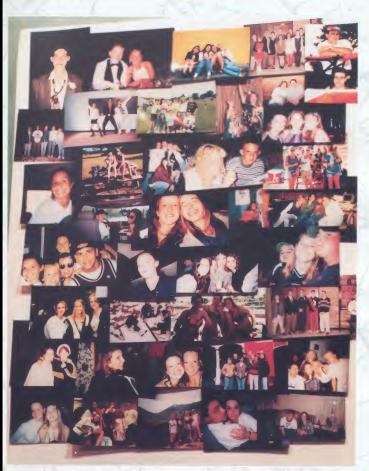






Clockwise from top left: Mike Koebcke and Jatin Patel show their team spirit for their two favorite players, Dave Risner and Justin Roberts, at a home baskethall game. Alex Abel "Quoth the Raven" during his American Studies class. Yo Gutwein dukes it out with a member of the "Poetry Alive" squad.

SENIOKS Seniors Seniors **SHOULD SENIORS** eniors



Chance Amsler Kasey Anderson Jill Austin Hannah Babb Bree Bailey











Janel Bailey Micah Beaver Katie Blasky Kristina Brandenburg Chris Brenneman











Tom Bretzinger Brandon Brown Jessica Brown Ryan Brown Ianthe Bryant











Adam Buczek Kristy Burman Stefanie Byers Matt Campbell Greg Cannon











Ericka Cantu Andy Chapman Anne Chapman Sarah Cook Kim Crynes













Brian Cummings Karen Darnaby Jon Davis Jeff Deardurff John DeLeon











Tim Dewey Uriah Dobson Paul Dumas Robby Dunbar Jeremy Eisele





















Matt Ekstrom Chad Ethridge Brianne Fenwick Kelly Figley Brad Fleming











Kevin Florence Paul Florence Brandon Gilbert Chuck Gratner Curt Hale











Jayce Halligan Becca Hamer Phil Healey Isra Hendon Matt Hoyes











Cathy Ingram-Barradas David Jennings Brandon Johnson Brenda Johnson Kristy Kellner











Tracy Killgo-Guevara Erin Kingman Katie Kingman Iamie Kinnaird Aaron Knezevic











Lauren Koebcke Joey Kosta Jeff Lakin Matt Lanoue RaeAnn Lanoue











Joel Leichty Brian Ludington Brandon Maienbrook Megan Marshall Davina Martin

Diana Mateica Nevin Mathew Gary Mattingly Clint Mattocks Matt McAleer











Kristen McBride Mike McCollum Bryan McIntyre Scott Miller Missy Morris











Matt Mullins Angie Nagel Deanna Nagel Josslyn Nagel Kim Nagel











Marie Nagel Mark Nagel Dwayne Northcutt Lindsay Northcutt Eric Nowlin











Resa Nussbaum James Oliver Jesse Owsley Brian Phegley Chad Pinkerman











Devin Pitcher Andy Pitstick Jennifer Pizer Nathan Plant Matt Plett











Mike Potts Holly Raff Athena Reff Brandon Reyes Julie Robinson





















Kim Rodibaugh Randy Rusk Ericka Sayler Edward Schenk Rvan Schleman











Andrew Schulenberg John Scott Angie Scripter Holly Shearer Amy Smith











Josh Smith Maynard Smith Michelle Smith Lance Spangle Jessica Spencer











Meredith Spicer Misty St.John Kyle Standish Danielle Stone Shana Streitmatter











Star Swan Teresa Szabo Clay Thompson Marcus Thornton Amanda Tow











Nicholas Tychek Vince Urbano Ienifer VonTobel Rachel Waling Wendy Walker











Iulie Walter Nic Warfel Ben Warran Amanda Wheeler Amanda Whited

Brad Wiltfang Tosha Winton Michael Wood Sarah Wood Barbara Woodke











Kara Woodworth Justin Wortley Ben Zimmer Hannah Zimmer Lacy Zobel











What A Long Strange Trip It Has Been

The sector class of 1998 was always procompied with fun. Even through these were outstanding effects in athletes and academies, walles and friends were always the highest priority! The following phases are memories of all of our years together and represent a dedication to all graduates of 1908. Lots of last in your accomplishments.













1997 - 1998 Senior Hall of Fame













Petures appear, by page, top to bottom and left to right.

Most Athletic: Kristina Biandanburg and
Brandon Maitenbrook
Biggest Bookworms: Lauren Koeboke and
Mesoh Beworr

Most Attistic: Bree Balley and Matt Plett
Biggest Rebels: Dressa Esabo and Brad Fleming
Most Austail: Lany Zobel and Justin Wortley
Most Musical: Lany Zobel and Justin Wortley
Most Dheatritoal: Karen Downaby and Jone Leichty
Cutest Couple: Marie Nagel and James Oliver
Biggest Thris: Katte Blasky and Chad Pinkerman
Most Osiginal: Kally Jigley and Chud Pinkerman
Most Osiginal: Kally Jigley and Chud Finkerman
Most Osiginal: Kelly Jigley and Chud Finkerman
Most Osiginal: Kelly Jigley and Chud Finkerman
Most Osiginal: Kelly Sigley and Chud Finkerman
Most Osiginal: Marie Nagel and James Oliver
Most Triendly: Resa Nussbaum, Brandon Reyes,
and Ben Zimmer

























Pintures appears by paye, from top to bottom and left to right.

Best Dressed: Kim Noodbinayh and Clay Thompson

Best Laught: Ill Austin and Brian Ludwigton

Best Aniv: Mate Kingman and Mike Potts

Best Aniv: Dana Marteia and John Scott

Teacher Petr: Este Nowlin and Mr. Potter

Megan Marshal and Mr. Potter

Class Clown: Missy Morets and Bryan Methytae

Most Likely to Succeed: Janel Balley and Andy Chapman

Biggest Povorastinators: Julie Walters and Mark Nagel

Most Likely to be Nob: Bilanne Jeneich and Josh Small

Most Likely to be Politicians: Star Swan and Paul Dumas

Most Likely to be Politicians: Star Swan and Paul Dumas

Most Likely to be Politicians: Star Swan and Paul Dumas















The annual homecoming festivities started off without a glitch. Enthusiastic students gathered their friends and joined up for the parade Thursday night to get the town pumped up for Friday night's game. The queens were lovely, the crowd was big, and the excitement was high as the parade started off. The class floats were a direct reflection of the pride and love all members of R.C.H.S. share for their Bomber football team. Coming in first place in the float contest was the senior class; second place, the junior class; third place, the sophomore class; and last place, the freshman

The parade was followed by a hot bonfire on school grounds and the crowd watched as students from each class sacrificed something from their floats. The sacrifices were small, but it was the cheering of the crowd that kept the fire burning for the Bombers.

A loud and rowdy pep session followed all the events for the evening. A former Bears player, the guest speaker, gave an inspiring speech, and lit the team up with encouragement to win the biggest game of the season. Also, Mr. McKim and the varsity football team captains took a few minutes to share with the crowd their game plan for Friday night: "Kick some butt!" Needless to say the crowd roared with enthusiasm and was dismissed. All the students left the field Thursday night ready to win the homecoming game.

Things looked great as the Bombers went into Friday nights game. The desire was high, the crowd was pumped and the Bombers were ready to bomb the end zone.

In the top photo, Tom Alberts captures the excitement of the crowd as they patiently await our guest speaker. In the middle photo, the color guard gives a great performance during half time of the homecoming game. In the bottom photo, the chereladers give an eye papping performance Thursday might at the pee session festivities.













In the top left corner photo, Lacy Zobel directs the band and color guard in their routine during the pep session.

In the top right corner photo, R.C.H.S. students patiently await the starting of the annual homecoming bonfire.

In the photo to the left, friends, Angela Keobeke and past graduate Michelle Ringen are just hanging out during the homecoming game. Along with Ringen, several graduates returned to support their favorite team into victory this night.



Above, Mr. Mc Kim gives an inspiring speech to our football team Thursday night at the pep session.



Above, the Junior class float showed excellent spirit at the annual homecoming parade, even though they came in second place to the Seniors.



A clear, bright and starlit night proved to be this year's setting for the homecoming festivities. The band's march was in full force, while the color guard dazzled the crowd with their extravagant flags and flashy uniforms. The bomber crowd poured out their pride by cheering on and chanting for the football team who took the River Forest Ingots heads on. There was an electricity that filled the air and anxious nerves among the crowd: those most affected were this year's queen contestants. (above) Kim Rodibaugh, Marie Nagel, Resa Nussbaum, and Kristina Brandenburg. Bree Bailey, with escort Matt Plett, was announced queen for this year, and immediately she was all smiles with some genuine shock. (right) Bree received true sportsmanship as the rest of the court cheered her on while Tonya Wright, last year's winner, crowned her queen. (bottom right) The game's end brought a well deserved victory for everyone present as the team defeated the Ingots 31 to 6. Finally, the night was completed with a celebration dance back at the school, which included, of course, dollar dances with the newly crowned queen for all those lucky bachelors.







Homecoming Oueen Bree Bailey







Dwayne Northcutt keeps busy even between quarters as he plays the tuba during the half time show. Anxious fans, a group including Amanda Tow, Brienne Fernwick, Erin Kingman, and Lindsay Northcutt, watch as the queen contestants await the announcement of the winner.







James Oliverescapes the defense as he out runs his opponent. The color guard, including Desiree Hopkins, enlightens the crowd during their half time performance. Student Council Committee Chairman Luke Tillet awards Mr. Chafes Tait a plaque announcing his role as Grand Marshall of all the home coming festivities, including the leader of the homecoming parade.

SUNSHINE DANCE

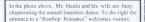
To the right below, Beth Hannon smiles as she is announced the new Junior Princess. To the left below, Lindsey Jeffries is chosen Sophomore Princess. Directly right, all of the princesses and Queen Bree Bailey get their formal portrait.

















The 1997 Sunshine Dance Rocks RCHS

This year's annual Sunshine Dance was entitled "Rooftop Romance." The dance began at 8:00 PM and concluded at 11:00 PM. The high school gymnasium was decorated to look like a city skyline at night by many of the dedicated Sunshine members and their sponsors, Mrs. Spurgeon and Mrs. Waling. To add to the ambiance an elegant fountain rained water back

into the trough next to the re-

freshment table.

As tradition would hold again at the fall fest, the Queen and the Princesses were announced at the dance. This year's reigning Queen was Bree Bailey, and the princesses were as follows: Senior Rachel Waling; Junior Beth Hannon; Sophomore Lindsey Jeffries; and Freshman Michelle Kiger.

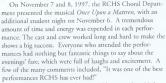
This year's Sunshine Dance was perhaps the most successfully decorated and attended occasion in the organization's history.

In the top photo, Junior Jodie Lakin is busy working on scenic pieces for the dance. Directly above a swinging crew pauses for a picture.

Queen Aggravain (Lacy Zobel) and Prince Dauntless (Andy Earnest) discuss with Lady Larken (Kelly Vogt) and Sir Harry (Josh Taylor) the possibilities of finding a princess.

Queen Aggravain (Lacy Zobel) sings about her troubles of being a mother and queen.





Another comment was, "How could you not love it! It was amazine!"

The actors themselves said the following:

"This year everyone had a blast putting this play on. We had a lot of rookies this year, but they held out and did a wonderful job."

-Karen Darnaby (Rowena)

"It was nice to see so many lower and upper classmen participating together.

It was fun! A blast! Quite a party."

-Kim Nagel (Princess Winnifred)

Once Upon a Mattres is the story of a young prince. Prince Dauntless, who is looking for a princess. There's one small problem: his mother, Queen Aggravain, does not approve of any princess and his father, King Sextimus The Silent, does not speak. The whole kingdom is desperate for the prince to find a princess, especially Lady Larken and Sir Harry, two lovers who need to be wed ASA. Finally, after many searches, the kingdom begins to believe that a princess has been found. The princess, Princess Winnifred, is brought to the kingdom by Sir Harry. Princess Winnifred shakes up the





kingdom and their traditional ways of thinking. The queen isn't happy with this new princess and decides to test the young lady, as she did to the others. Queen Aggravain planned, along with the Wizard, to tests the princess's sensitivity. The queen places a small pea in a stack of mattresses and waits to see if the princess notices. With the help of a few male accomplices, the princess does and is allowed to marry the prince.

Once Upon a Mattress



In the photo to the left, Princess Winnifred (Kim Nagel) sings "I'm Shy" to her newfound friends after being brought to the kingdom by Sir Harry (Josh Taylor).

In the photo in the middle of the page, members of the kingdom (Andy Earnest, Mark Brouwer, Derek Goad, Desiree Hopkins, and Brienne Hopkins) sing about their long seareg for a princess.





Cast of Characters

Cust be Characters
Minstrel Mark Brouwer
Princess Do. 12 Tiffany Jordan
Wigard Jeremy Culbreth
Lady Larken Belly Bogt
Queen Aggrabain Lacy Zobel
Prince Dauntless Andy Carnest
Ring Sextimus the Silent Nick Black
Jester Abam Brantner
Sir Studley Mark Slade
Sir Luce Derek Goad
Merrill Rebekah Hansen
Lucille Cookie Bryant
Sir Harry Josh Taylor
Princess Winnifred Bim Dagel
Lady Mabelle Barb Woodke
Ladies-in-Waiting Brooke Geesa,
Brienne Hopkins, Desiree Hopkins,
Dannielle Pruette, Julie Walters

The cast members of Once Upon a Mattress continued the tradition of putting on a dinner theatre during the fall musical. The actors served guests at both Friday and Saturday night performances. Before the plays' performances, guests were served a full meal, which was enjoyed by both the cast members and the guests.

Actors Brooke Gessa, Kelly Vogt, Josh Taylor, and Mark Brouwer serve dinner in the photo to the left.

THE SOUND OF MUSIC

To the right, housekeepee Brienne Hopkins argues with the bulter. Mark Slade, about the future of the household. In the photos below (from left to right), Mother Abbess, played by Karen Danuby, sings to Maria (Tiffany Jordan), while giving advice for the postulate. To climb every mountain." Mr. Tom Landrum and the pit orchestra get ready for one last performance with accompanyist Mrs. Susan Darnaby, and Maria and Captain Von Trapp profess their love for one nother.









Maria gathers the children (Adam Brantner, Heather Brantner, Holliston Nagel, Micah Voss, Megan Casey on the couch with Amy Peterson in the background) in her roomfor a chorus of "The Lonely Goat-herd" to calm them from their fears of the storm.



Pho Josslyn Nagel) and Max (Josh Taylor) we having a conversation after attending a dinner party honoring Elsa.



The Show Must Go On

Overcoming minor setbacks has never been a problem in the past, and throughout the production of The Sound of Music, it was once in the path of an RCHS musical, the actors cleared the way. With all of the new lighting and sound reconstruction in the auditorium, initially, the question cropped up: when exactly would rehearsals be taking place on the actual stage. As the construction came to an end, a control panel had to be borrowed, but the sound and lighting had never been better! On top of these challenges, the question of whether or not the cast would be using snowmobiles to get to school became a reality after a huge storm hit. Several days came and went without electricity and school, much less rehearsals. When the weather did clear up, the show was dubbed a success.

The Sound of Mussic is a true story about a man who falls in love with a man and his children for whom she comes to oversee. The play, which takes place just before Work War II, exhibits numerous obstacles which the family members must overcome with war and each other. Eventually the problems are solved and like any good story, everyone lives happity ever after.

As the play comes to an end, so does the career of one of the most beloved pinishes (RCHS, Mrs. Susan Darnaby took part in her last production during The Sound of Muser's CS hew as involved in the Renselser Choral Department for twelve years as an accompanist, barber shop director, Advanced Girls Choir director, and friend of the students. For all of her time and commitment, she will he missed. Mrs. D







In the photo above Mr. McKinley tediously paints Rebekah Hansen's face as Tiffany Jordan puts final touches on her hair.

In the photo above left, the Von Trapp children line up for morning role call as Captain Von Trapp instructs Maria of each childs whistle.

To the left, Mother Abbess and the three head nuns (Lacy Zobel, Karen Darnaby, Becca Hamer, and Ericka Sayler) lead the chorus in morning prayer.

An Evening

Senior Brian Cammings and Tanthe "Cookie" Bryant dip and swirt about the room.



The 1998 "The Covening in Paris" prom, bosted by the junior class, lived up to the successful turn outs of part years. The juniors and semiors danced to music proceded by Michoay Octotronics, they were transported from Halleck Center at 81. Isoseph College to the romanic city of low, Paris, Trance.

Everything from Elvis impersonators to traditional tuxes arrived tailored to perfection, while the ladies glided around the ballroom with acrylic nails, mounds of hair, and flowing gowns primped and precisely positioned.

The court for Prom King and Queen consisted of Bree Bailey, Kristina Brandenburg, Marie Nagel, Resa Nussbaum, Kim Rodibaugh, and Barbare Woodke; and for the men: Andy Chapman, James Oliver, Matt Plett, Jahn Scott,

In the photo directly to the right, senior Mike
"Elvis" Potts amuses the crowd by singing
gyrating to his favorite entertainer, rock legend
The King himself.

The right bottom picture interrupts an intimate moment between senior Feremy Eisle and sophomore Debbie Fennings.

Mthough a variety of music was proffered, the prom crowd enjoyed slow dancing to the romantic tunes in the picture below







In Paris

The top right photo captures a loving glance from Dwayne Northcutt to Stella Zicherl.

and Vince Urbano. Vince and Barbara were crowned the 1997-98 From King and Queen.

Tollowing the conclusion of the dance, prom-goers migrated to the gymnasium for the second consecutive "RCHS There Prom" provided by the jumin class parents. Sames, food, karoke, and prizes were part of the compleke "Island Translive" package. Local businesses donated prizes and food while Doctor B. provided the DJ service. No one left empty-funded.

From Paris to tropical paradises, those that attended this year's From were assured of a good time. The decorations, pictures, frames, glasses, and flowers added to the night's enchantment which produced unforgettable memories.







Junior Alex Abel and Angie Koebcke are friendly on the dance floor.

To the left is a picture of the 1997-98 Prom King and Queen, Vince Urbano and Barbara Woodke.

Mr. Bomber Night

On January 30, the crowds turned out for the spectacular, annual event which is held during basketball season. This 1998 activities consisted of the announcement of Mr. Bomber, our victory over North Newton (67-59), and a fun-filled dance to end the night.

This year five outstanding senior boys were selected by the senior girls as the Mr. Bomber candidates. Pictured below are the candidates and their escorts.



James Oliver & Marie Nagel



John Scott & Hannah Zimmer



Chad Pinkerman & Katie Blasky



Vince Urbano & Resa Nussbaum

1998

Mr. Bomber





The candidates pose for one last photograph before heading out to the crowd.



Mr. Bomber contestants and their escorts anxiously await the announcement.



Matt Plett & Bree Bailey are all smiles after the conclusion of Mr. Bomber activities.



Matt Plett receives congratulations from his escort, Bree Bailey in reaction to the big moment.

Fun Fest '98

Unlike more complicated Fun Fest events from years previous, RCHS was given another chance to show the school community that the 1998 event would not be a disappointment, as new approaches were introduced. The students up to the challenge of having a fun filled afternoon.

The latest Fun Fest changed from previous years in several ways including new games (Pictionary, Outburst, Guesstures, Taboo, Scattergories, Twister, crab soccer, fantastic shoe game, knockout, and amazing

relays) which allowed the students to compete quietly or loudly, or as individuals or larger groups. The success was measured in the enthusiasm and number of students participating. Despite the threat of rain, Student Council was able to make the day a success.

In addition to new games, a variety of student body talent was exhibited in the gym. Music from silly to serious rocked the bleachers. All of those gathered during the rainstorm were impressed at the performances.

Pictured clockwise starting from the photo to the right are seniors Julie Walters and Phill Healey delicately balancing a Hostess treat between them in the Twinkle race. In the lower right picture, Kevin Gillespie squeaks through the straw bales in an early leg of the obstacle course. Directly below, Kelly Vogt, Brienne Hopkins, and Josh Taylor sing and play on behalf of the iuniors at the talent show.



















Clockwise from the top left: Freshmen Elliot Zimmer, Brian Lakin, and Steve Dumas perform at the talent show; Kyle Johns heads on to the next segment of the obstacle course; Marie Nagel slips and slides on the obstacle Brandon course; Maienbrook hits one in knock out; seniors Mike Wood, Jeremy Eisele, John Scott, and Ben Warren harmonize at the talent show: while Resa and Andrea Nussbaum challenge each other at Twister.

Congratulations

High school ended for the Class of 1998 on June 7 after a delay brought on by make up days from a late snow storm. At two in the afternoon, the students took their places together for the last time. To the right are Kim Crynes and Kasey Anderson marching to their seats while the band played "Pomp and Circumstance."

The ceremony opened up with a few words from Mr. Day and a prayer led by Jeremy Eisele.

Salutatorian Janel Bailey began the series of speakers for the afternoon. Her speech reminisced of school days past and told of the ever present future. Josslyn Nagel and Erica Cantu followed, when they read their senior theme papers entitled "Reflections."

The senior class was very excited to be graduating: you could see it on their faces. That day was the beginning of the rest of their lives.











Class of 1998





Lacy Zobel, Valedictorian of the Rensselaer Central Class of 1998, addressed her classmates on "What a long, strange trip it's been." She also made mention of how graduation day would be the last time they would all be together. Lacy offered some comforting words though; she said that no one would ever be alone because they will all live under the same starry sky.



Asmiling Cookie Bryant, diploma in hand, walks over to hank Superintendent Mitch Ockermann.





In the center of the page, the band and choir join in a number in honor of the seniors.

Some front row seniors enjoy listening to their classmates on their final day at Rensselaer Central.

Dwayne Northcutt receives his diploma from Mr. David Day with a big smile and hearty handshake. Brian McIntyre, class clown, carries Missy Morris up the steps to receive her diploma. McIntyre was always trying to find a way to make everyone laugh during school, and he did just that during the graduation ceremony full of mixed emotions.

The feelings of each of the students were different that afternoon. Some cried, others laughed, and a few were jubilant. In the photo below, Steph Byers laughed at camera man Mr. Oates as her senior buddies thoughtfully looked over their diplomas.







Class of 1998's Kim Nagel closed the afternoon commencement in prayer. Finally, the moment had come at last; they were graduates. To celebrate, a little silly string and some toilet paper tossing punctuated the festive moment.

The beginning of the rest of their lives arrived June 7, 1998. Now the world was theirs, and their lives were their own to mold and make. They linked arms with their friends and walked out of the gymnasium to join the real world.







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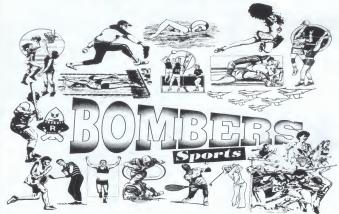
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BOMBER BRIGADE PLAYED FAR AWAY

The Rensselaer Central High School marching band was invited to perform in the 1997-1998 Florida Gator Bowl halftime show in Jacksonville, Florida. While in Florida, the band visited Jacksonville beach, where they waded in the bitter cold ocean, picked up beautiful seashells, and constantly walked around dead jelly fish that had been washed ashore. From there the instrumentalists went to Adventure Landing: they played arcade games, ate pizza, rode bumper boats and go-carts, and played putt-put golf and laser tag.

The Bomber Brigade marched in a parade that lasted one and a half hours and was four miles long. During the parade, they marches over a bridge hundreds of feet above a river that looked pretty far down from where they were marching. The band could see the water under their feet because the bridge had tiny holes in it. Courtney Lakin said, "I thought that it was really scary because you could see the water and the fact that it was an open bridge got me. Everyone kept looking down to look at the water."

Karen Darnaby added, "Marching over the bridge in Jacksonville, was an experience. The heel of our marching shoes would slip into the holes of the bridge."

After the parade, the band stupare for the New Year's Eve dance the Gator Bowl. This dance was a the mass band. This was surely a

After leaving Jacksonville and a gade was at the MGM Studios in dios they enjoyed rides, watched faces painted, and danced until band members enjoyed the most

dents returned to their rooms to prethrown for them by the sponsors of chance to meet the other members of night to remember by all attending, three hour drive, the Bomber Bri-Orlando, Florida. At the park Stumovies, went to arcades, had their time to leave. The one ride that some was the Tower of Terror. It took a

crowd of people thirteen stories straight up and dropped them.

After an evening of fun, they kicked back to relax at the Clarion Hotel, where they went swimming outside in a heated pool, soaked in the hot tub, or relaxed in front of cable TV. and ordered room service. The next morning, the band loaded up on the buses and left for a day at the Magic Kingdom in Disneyland to ride rides, go shopping, play games, and visit with their favorite Disney character.

After the fun and relaxing during the late nights came early mornings and practices and rehearsals. Every morning by six or six-thirty, the band members were up, dressed and ready to practice with about ten to twenty other schools, some as close as Tennessee and as far away as Texas. In all there were two thousand, seven hundred, twenty-one band and color guard members on the field at one time.

After the bowl game, the band and color guard members boarded the bus for home. If asked, most everyone would probably stay another week, but as much as the offer sounded intriguing, everyone was tired and wanted to get home. From first time getting on the bus and departing to the stop in Kentucky, and finally the arrival in Jacksonville, Florida, its hotels, the mass combined rehearsal to Disney World a good time was had by all, Rensselaer Central High School had a lot of memories from their trip to Florida that they will never forget.

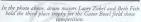


(To the left) is the Rensselaer Bomber brigade standing behind a banner made for them at the stadium. (below) are band members at the swim pool at the La 'Quinta Inn

(top from left to right) Ray Golder, Beth Fish, Hiromi Yoshizawa, and Elanor Black; (bottom row) Andy Earnest, and Lacy Zobel.







In the photo below, Ray Golder, John Stalbaum, and Dan Floyd patiently wait before going into the Gator Bowl.



























Aage 157

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PhotographerJim Storm, Chaos published by Jostens Inc.

Orie Schafer



9WS



students. Late in October, 128,000 teachers walk out to protest a controversial bill that would alter educational funding

A 15-day school strike in Ontario. Canada, affects 2.1 million

Asian economic turmoil triggers global unrest. In October, Hong Kong's stock market crashes. Asian countries receive billions in bailout dollars from the International



Hong Kong reverts to China at 12:01 a.m., July 1, after 156 years of British colonial rule. China says Hong Kong will continue its Western way of life



Jan 1, 2000

▲ Governments and businesses "Year 2000" problem. Unless key computer systems are reprogrammed to recognize dates in the new century the world faces the threat of catastrophic failure in critical areas like banking, air safety, public utilities and defense



Montserrat, once called "the Emerald Isle of the Caribbean," is devastated by ongoing eruptions been dormant for 400 years. Two-thirds of the populace evacuates.

Powerful earthquakes in central Italy kill 11 people and damage art treasures, including centuries-old frescoes by Italian Renaissance painters, in the Basilica of St. Francis

flash

A The remains of Ernesto "Che" Guevara, martyred Marxist revolutionary, are laid to rest in Cuba in October, 30 years after his execution in Bolivia, where his bones recently had been found.



After 32 years of autocratic rule, President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire is deposed in May 1997 and later dies in exile. His successor, Laurent. Kabila, changes Zaire's name to Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Change sweeps Great Britain as Labor Party leader Tony Blair's landslide election in May 1997 ousts the Conservatives and makes Blair, at 44. Britain's voungest prime minister in 185 years.

Hurricane Pauline slams into Mexico's Pacific coast in October, causing flash floods, landslides and at least 200 fatalities. The resort city of Acapulco is heavily damaged.



A Halloween fever seizes France. At the base of the Eiffel Tower in Paris 8,000 pumpkins are displayed, and French children participate in an American-style Halloween celebration.

President Jiang Zemin of China meets for summit talks with President Bill Clinton in October, the first visit in 12 years of a Chinese leader to the U.S. During his stay demonstrators



The Control of the Co

Diana, Princess of Wales, one of the world's most famous and admired women, dies at 36 in a violent car crash in Paris on August 31.



The death of "the people's princess" generates an emotion outpouring of love and grief, evidenced by floral tributes heaped at Diana's Kensington Palace home.



At the funeral. Elton John performs

"Cande in the Wind 1897," rewritten in
tribute to Diana. The recording quickly
sells more than 35 million copies,
becoming the best-selling single of all
time. Sales proceeds benefit the Diana,
Princess of Wales Memorial Pund.



One of the most poignant images of Duna's funeral: her young sons following her coffin into Westminster Abbey.

flash



Floods, drought and mismanagement in North Korea create a severe famine. As many as a million North Koreans die of starvation.

Pope John Paul II visits Communist Cuba in January 1998, the first time a pope has done so. During his five-day visit the pope celebrates public masses and meets privately with President Fidel Castro.



In June, shortly before Diana's death, an auction of 79 of her evening gowns raises \$3.26 million for AIDS and cancer charittes. Top price paid for a single gown: \$222,500.



National



Once-mighty Apple Computer is August. The event opens a new era of cooperation between

On July 25 suspected murderer Andrew Cunanan, 27, commits suicide in Miami Beach. Cunanan was the prime suspect in a cross-country killing spree that left five dead, including fashion designer Gianni Versace.



In April 1997, floods ravage the entire Red River Valley between Minnesota and the Dakotas. Ninety percent of downtown Grand Forks, North



campaigns nationwide awareness of and solutions to the problem of violence





Federal Trade Commission bans tobacco advertising aimed at minors and institutes sweeping tobacco advertising restrictions.



British nanny Louise Woodward, 19, is convicted in Massachusetts of murdering a child in her care. The judge later reduces the charge to involuntary manslaughter and



Timothy McVeigh is convicted of murder and conspiracy in June for the April 1995 bombing of the Alfred Oklahoma City: McVeigh is later sentenced to death.

Theodore Kaczynski admits he is the Unabomber responsible for ling 3 people and injuring 29 hers in an 18-year bombing aign. His January 1998 guilt piea spares Kaczynski the deati enalty but condemns him to life in prison with no possibility of release.

UPS workers take to the picket lines in an August strike Insting 15 days. The eventual settlement is seen as a major labor victory.



First Lt. Kelly Flinn accepts a general discharge from the Air Force, avoiding court-martial for lying about an affair and disobeying orders. Flinn had been the first and only female B-52 pilot in

A rare urban toronto promis through Miams on Mee 11, uprooting trees, shattering windows and snapping power lines. Fortunately, the storm inflicts only minor injuries.



Attorney General Janet Reno refuses to name an independent



Bobbi McCaughes, Carlisle, Iowa, septuplets. McCaughey and



eight children.





New Mexico, to





Fast-food grant Burger King is forced to stop serving burgers when supplier Hudson Foods recalls 25 million pounds of hamburger suspected of contamination with E. coli bacteria. It is the biggest beef recall in U.S. history.

flash

The all-male Promise Keepers movement inspires praise and controversy for its message of spiritual revival and personal responsibility for men. In October, the group holds a giant rally in Washington, D.C.

Once-secret tape recordings of former presidents Kennedy and Nixon are released publicly. The tapes provide an unvarnished, and sometimes unflattering, glimpse into the two presidents' actions and conversations in the White House.



On October 25, at least 300,000 African-American women gather in Philadelphia for the Million Woman March. Winnie Madikizela-Mandela is one of the speakers.



Science



Russia's aging Mir space station collides with an unmanned supply damaged. This is only one in a

series of crises casting doubt on the viability of the station.

Viewers worldwide see the first-ever high-resolution color pictures of Mars when the Pathfinder spacecraft lands July 4. The lander and its rover, Sojourner, collect and transmit extraordinary data for three months



In September, CAT scans of petrified dinosaur eggs found in China reveal a dinosaur embryo.



For \$8.36 million, Chicago's Field Museum of Natural History buys "Sue," the most complete Tyrannosaurus rex fossil yet discovered. The sale occurs October 4 at Sotheby's in New York.



Scottish scientists in February 1997 announce the world's first cloning of an adult mammal. The sheep, named Dolly, fuels controversy over possible misuse of the technology.



Research produces medical breakthroughs, including a genetically engineered "bullet" molecule being tested to fight cancer and new drugs to control or prevent Parkinson's disease, osteoporosis and congestive heart failure.



The popular diet regimen fen-phen is pulled off the market in September. The combination of fenfluramine and phentermine is shown to cause heart valve disorders, as is the diet drug Redux, also recalled.



Fuel cells that convert a fuel's vergy directly into electricity are gy directly into g developed for use in cars, ing possible an efficient, king possible an emo-emission car of the future.

The first prescription pill for male-pattern baldness is ed by the Food and Drug Idministration in December. The drug Propecia is made by

Merck and Company.



Aided by the Hubble Space Telescope, astronomers discover the Pistol Star-the brightest star yet observed in the Milky Way. The Pistol Star is 25,000 light years from Earth.

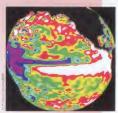
Comet Hale-Bopp captures imaginations Earth for the first time in 4,200 years—or, since 2203 B.C. Hale-Bopp next returns in 4397

CARFUTURE

A In December, 159 nations gather in Kyoto, Japan, and negotiate a climate treaty to combat global warming by reducing greenhouse gases.



On October 13, the British jet car Thrust SSC becomes the first vehicle to break the sound barrier on land, traveling 766.6 miles per hour in the



El Niño stirs up global weather patterns. Caused by warmer-thannormal water temperatures in the problems worldwide.



Administration approves a dental laser Unake traditional dental drills, the laser



NASA's Cassini spacecraft to



long-awaited computer adventure game sequel to Myst, popular and even more sophisticated visually than its

Hong Kong authorities in December order the slaughter of more than a million chickens in an effort to halt the spread of a bird flo virus that killed six people.

The space shuttle Columbia releases the errant Sportan satellite in November. U.S. astronaut Winston Scott and Takao Doi, the first Japanese astronaut to do a space walk, retrieve the satellite for return to Earth.



French oceanographer and award-winning filmmaker Jacques Cousteau dies in June at 87. His work gained renown through the popular television series "The Undersea World

of Jacques Cousteau.

Lifestyle





Fashion advertising and clothing trends inspire the popularity of the color grange, which replaces peop green as the fad color of the year.



In October, a cyberfashion show at the M.I.T. Media Lab Wearable Symposium features fashions with built-in computer devices and electronic hardware. M.I.T. students designed the high-tech fashions.



Princess Diana tribute merchandise abounds, including a double CD Princess, a royal purple bear adorned with a rose. Profits benefit the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund.





This year's look in cosmetics is glimmering. sparkling and colorful. Riding this wave, cosmetics giant Christian Dior introduces Mascara Flash, temporary hair outrageous tints.



Platform shoes, a fashion statement during the disco '70s, make a style comeback in a big way in 1997, inspiring even platform sneakers.

e introduces a new "I Can" advertising campaign on New Year's Day. The company does not plan to abandon its "Just Do It" slogan, introduced in 1985, which will continue to appear on T-shirts and posters.

Diet Scent Patches are introduced in June by Stimline, a British e by Samuno, a certain any. Designed to help people diet successfully, the small arm stickers produce an unpleasant odor to discourage the wearer from eating sweets.



"Two Fat Ladies" becomes the Food Network's hottest new cooking show in the U.S., attracting fans with its unconventional British stars, two overweight, middle-aged women.

The Cherrolet Corroller is named Motor Trend magazine's 1998 Car of the Year.



A new \$50 bill featuring a larger, off-center portrait of President Ulysses S. Grant is unveiled in October. Design details make the bill more difficult to force.



Martel introduces Stare a Smile Recky in May 197. Seated in a hypothesis with the dolls marketed as friend to the troofstool Borite.

Matter nearly 40 years,
Mattel's Barbie doll
takes on a more realistic
face and body shape
than the Barbie of the
'60s. The new doll will
begin to appear in

Smaller Chest

maller Hips



Digital pets are a 1997 toy craze. These virtual critters keep their owners busy by beeping when they need care or feeding.



Mehndi, intricate designs painted on the body with henna dye, is a popular expression of the fashion trend toward Eastern themes and patterns.



appear on CD-ROM in ever-growing numbers, including interactive favorites Monopoly, Scrabble, Sorry, Risk and Boggle.

flash

As many as 700 school districts nationwide teach "emotional intelligence," aiming to develop children's values and people skills as well as their minds.

Beepers are a status symbol and a lifestyle must-have for many teens juggling school, jobs and after-school activities. More than 40 million beepers are carried in the U.S., an estimated 25 percent of them by people between the ages of 12 and 24. In some schools, beepers are forbidden as disruptive.



Canada issues a Superhero postage stamp series that includes a 45-cent stamp featuring the colorful, comic-book image of Superman.

Lifestyle

Entertainment



The Lost World, Steven records everywhere. It earns

\$229 million in the U.S.

ABC's gritty police drama "NYPD Blue" remains one of the most popular one-hour dramas on television in 1997, capturing four Emmy Awards



Jerry Seinfeld, creator and star of the NBC hit "Seinfeld," announces in December that the 1997 1998 season is the show's last. The final episode airs in May, ending the popular show's nine-year run.



Comedian Chris Farley dies at 33 of a drug overdose on December 18. He starred in NBC's "Saturday Night Live" and movies including formy Boy and



Horror films draw teenagers to the box office. I Know What You Did Last Summer, starring Jennifer Love Hewitt and Sarah Michelle Gellar, is one of the year's bigge # attractions.



In its second season, the WB's campy sitcom "Buffy the Vampire Slaver" blossoms into a huge favorite with many viewers.

Jenny McCarthy stars in a new fall NBC comedy "Jenny" that, in January 1998, goes into hiatus only a few months into its first season. McCarthy had been an MTV personality before moving to the network.



Fox network launches "King of the Hill," an animated show that focuses on the lives of a propane dealer from Texas and his family The show goes on to become a smash hit.



Scream 2, the chilling hit sequel to Scream, is a wildly successful mix of carnage and comedy starring Neve Campbell, Jerry O'Connell, Tori Spelling, Jada Pinkett and a host of other stars



Critically acclaimed Amistad. directed by Steven Spielberg, tells the story of an 1839 slave ship mutiny. The film culminates years of effort by producer Debbie Allen to bring the story to life.

Religion is a common theme on eight fall-season network TV shows inspired by the success of CBS's "Touched by an Angel" starring Roma Downey, Della Reese and John Dye. New programs include ABC's "Nothing Sacred" and "Teen Angel."



Titanic is a huge critical and box-office success. The movie event of the year, this \$200 million picture is the most costly in history. After 45 days in the theaters, Titanic had earned \$308 million.



Mar Wars captures a new generation of fans when George Lucas re-releases the film trilogy 20 years after the first film was shown. In Washington, D.C., the National Air and Space Museum mounts a huge exhibition of now-historic Star Wars artifacts.



Michael Flatley's pulsating show "Lord of the Dance" In fuels the extraordinary "2

popularity of Irish dance.

The show tours 15 cities in

the U.S. through October.

In the fall, Fox debuts "Ally McBeal," a comedy/drama starring Calista Flockhart as a young Boston attorney. The show captures a Golden Globe Award in January 1998 for besties/missel or comercial or comedications.



Matt Damon stars as an attorney in *The Rainmaker*, a move based on the John Grisham novel. Damon's successes also include the film Good Will Hunting.



flash

The Wowlerful World of Disney presents its adaptation of "Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella" on ABC, starring Brandy as Cinderella and Whitney Houston as the Fairy Godmothes.

Tomorrow Never Dies, starring Pierce Brossen as 007, is a holiday box-office hit and confirms the enduring popularity of James Bond movice.



The 1997 season premiere episode of "ER" is broadcast live and draws 42.7 million wewers for NBC, including those who watch it on a giant screen in Times Souare.

news

Music



Fiona Apple, 20, one of rock's female superstars, is named MTV's Best New Artist in a Video. Her single "Criminal" soars to the top of the charts.

Chumbawamba's hit single "Tubthumping" brings long-awaited success to this British band. The song becomes popular at games for several teams.



Rap artist the Notorious B.I.G. is killed in a March 1997 drive-by shooting in Los Angeles. He is posthumously awarded MTV's 1997 Best Rap Video Award for "Hypnotize" and is named Spin magazine's Artist of the Year.



With their hit single "MMMBop," three young brothers from Tulsa become one of the biggest breakthrough acts of 1997 as the band Hanson.



Lilith Fair, an all-female summer rock 37-stop tour. Canadian singer-songwriter Sarah McLachlan masterminds the festival and releases a hit album, Surfacing.



Drummer Bill Berry leaves R.E.M. after 17 years with the popular rock group. R.E.M. plans to continue as a trio.

Kenny G. enters the Guinness Book of World Records for holding the longest musical note-45 minutes 47 seconds—on his saxophone



Smash Mouth popularizes a genre of alternative rock known as neo-ska with its hit single "Walkin" on the Sun" and debut album Fush Yu Mang.



Country music superstar Garth Brooks releases Sevens, his first album in two years. The album sells 800,000 copies the first week.



Walk This Way: The Autobiography of Aerosmith chronicles the long career of the band notorious for its excesses in the '70s and '80s. The group's new album Nine Lives is nominated for a 1998 Grammy.

British pop phenomenon, the Spice Girls, makes millions with mega-hits such as "Wannabe" and sells 14 million albums and 10 million singles.



Adam Yauch of the Beastie Boys engineers the second Tibetan Freedom Concert, held in June in New York, offering 27 music acts and a free-Tibet political message.



Third Eye Blind, after several years in San Francisco's underground music scene, goes big time in 1997. Their song "Semi-Charmed Life" is listed as the top-selling modern rock single for 1997 in Billboard magazine.



The album No Way Out by Puff Daddy & the Family goes multiplatinum. Puffy's single "I'll Be Missing You," an elegy to his friend the Notorious B.I.G., also tops the charts.



phenom Jonny Lang opens for the Rolling Stones' fall tour and spends 16 weeks at No. 1 on Billboard's blues chart with his



>

Metallica releases a seventh album Ro-Lead, that confirms its position as the premier heavy-metal band in

the music world.

Radiohead is Spin magazine's Band of the Yoar. Critics praise Radiohead's album OK Computer, variously described as humiting, reveiling, inscrutable, shuming and grogous. The album receives a 1998 Grammy nomination for Rock/Pop Album of the Year.



Kenneth "Babyface" Edmonds, superstar producer songwriter singer, receives more 1998 Grammy nominations than any other artist, including one for his album The Day: Edmonds and wife Tracey also produce the film Soul Food in 1997.



At 15, country music sensation LeAnn Rimes sells more than 12.5 million recordings in the U.S. in 1997 and is named *Billboard* Music Awards Artist of the Year. Her single "How Do I Live" is one of the year's best sellers.



sports Fews



In July, 16-year-old Swiss tenns star Wimbledon champion since 1887. Grand Slam events.



The Florida Marlins are baseball's 1997 World Series champs and the first team ever to win the Series without winning its league pennant. The Marlins defeat the Cleveland Indians in seven games.





Tiger Woods, 21, becomes win the Masters Tournament. the season.



Holyfield's ear and is disqualified in the WBA Heavyweight rematch in June 1997. Tyson is fined nearly \$3 million



Pittsburgh Penguins' Mario Lemieux retires in April 1997 after a spectacular comeback from Hodgkin's disease and injury. Lemieux is elected to the Hockey Hall of Fame in September.



In April 1997, the premier issue of Sports Illustrated Women hits the newsstands. The magazine reflects the explosive growth of female participation in sports.



Swedish golfing phenomenon Annika Sorenstam, 26, tops the LPGA earnings list in 1997 with a record \$1,236,789.

Professional sports salaries keep skyrocketing. One of the most publicized of 1997 is Kevin Garnett's \$126 million contract to play basketball for the Minnesota Timberwolves.



Charles Woodson, Michigan's versatile Heisman Trophy, awarded in December. Jeff Gordon, at 10 min 1/0 1997 NASCAR WITTON I L. y. b. a second Winston Lagrand mi in three years. Gordon's 1997 points total 4,710.



Nagano, Japan, hosts the 1998 Winter Olympic Games during February: Three new medal sports make their Olympic debut: curling, snowboarding and women's in hockey.



Steve Yzerman powers his team to the 1997 Stanley

four games.

The Chicago Bulls beat the Utah Jazz their fifth NBA seven years. Michael Finals MVP a record fifth time.

When the college football season ends, two teams share the national championship, Michigan (12-0) is named No. 1 by the sports





In its debut season, the WNBA exceeds all league expectations for success. The Houston Comets' championship win over the New York Liberty caps the 1997 season.

Women officiate in an all-male professional sports league for the first time. The pioneers, Dee Kanter and Violet Palmer, are referees in the NBA.

flash

Mark McGwire, of the St. Louis Cardinals, stams 52 homers in 1996 and 58 in 1997. McGwire es only the second player in ball history with back-to-back, ome-run seasons, the other heing Babe Ruth

Dean Smith, winningest coach in college basketball history, retires in October after 36 seasons at North Carolina. Sports Illustrated names him 1997 Sportsman of the Year.



Faces



Miss Illinots, Katherine Shrndle, is crowned Miss America 1998. For the first time in its 77-year history the pageant allows contestants to wear two-piece swimsuits in competition.



Chelsea Clinton begins her freshman year at Stanford University in Palo Alto, California Despite security measures, she reportedly will lead as normal a college life as possible.



Beloved actor Jimmy Stewart dies in July at 89. Stewart's enduring nice-guy popularity is exemplified by It's a Wonderful Life, his 1946 movie that is now an American cultural icon.



Roman Catholic nun Mother Teresa of Calcutta dies September 5 at the age of 87. Revered for a lifetime of helping the poorest of the poor, her many honors include the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize.

For the first time, a computer beats a world chess champion when IBM's Deep Blue beats Russian Garry Kasparov in a six-game match in May 1997.

To a Control of the C

American Jody Williams and the International Campaign to Ban Land Mines are awarded the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize in October. The U.S. and China refuse to sign an international treaty that would ban land mines.



Ted Turner, vice chairman of the Time Warner media empire, pledges \$1 billion to United Nations programs. It is the largest single gift in philanthropic history.

tasb

Former leader of the Soviet Union Mikhail Gorbachev films a TV commercial for Pizza Mrt. He reportedly earns \$1 million for the appearance, money he plans to use to benefit his Gorbachev Foundation.

Singer John Denver dies in October at 53 when the experimental plane he is piloting crashes into California's Monterey Bay.



Sarah Ferguson, Duchess of York, appears in ads as a spokesperson for Weight Watchers International. She is the former wife of England's Prince Andrew.











